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PART XLIX.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF TURKEY.

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ERRATA.

Page 4. No. 6, line 2, for "Kosnek" read "Kosjek."
„ 131. Inclosure in No. 193, line 1, for "Anlona" read "Avlona."
„ 167. No. 260, line 2, for "Scrutari" read "Scutari."
„ 189. No. 305. The number of the despatch should have been No. 59, Commercial.
„ 213. No. 320, line 3, after "advisability" read "of the Powers concerting together in the event."
„ 321. No. 515, line 3, for "gentleman" read "gentlemen."

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CONFIDENTIAL.

Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of Turkey.

PART XLIX.

No. 1.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 40. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, April* 12, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 35 of the 3rd instant, I reported to your Lordship how the Christian Rayahs in this neighbourhood were being persecuted by three Mussulmans, named Roustem, Uko, and Butcha.

The statements contained in my despatch were fully corroborated by a person with whom I had an interview to-day, and may be considered fair evidence of the condition of the Rayah in North-eastern Albania.

It appears that these three Mussulmans levy black-mail at every marriage, force the Christians to cultivate their land gratis week-days and Sundays, and frequently, without any given reason, compel a village to pay them 2,000 or 3,000 piastres.

A case of the kind took place a few days ago. The villagers, being very poor, in order to raise the required sum, had to sell their cattle at Prisrend.

Some time back instructions were given by the authorities for the arrest of Roustem. Sixty zaptiehs were sent to surround his house and take him prisoner; but Roustem, who had been apprised of their coming, betook himself into a neighbouring field, where he quietly looked on. Three days later he was seen to wear a red waistcoat embroidered with silver, that had been picked up by those sent to arrest him, clearly showing the terms on which he must be with the latter.

On my making a complaint to Mukhtar Pasha on the subject, his Excellency took their names down, promising me to have them arrested the first time they were seen in the bazaar at Prisrend; but until now they are still at large, and having bought over the zaptiehs (who, not being paid by the Government, are easily bribed), will continue to persecute the Christian Rayahs as heretofore.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 2.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 41. Political.)

My Lord, *Prisrend, April* 13, 1880.

ON the 2nd ultimo, in the village of Partesch, one hour's distance from the town of Gilan, the house of a Christian named Jovo Kovatchevich was attacked by thirteen Mussulmans, supposed to be refugees from Servia.

The latter, after having taken all they could lay their hands on, asked for money.

On being refused, they placed the owner of the house and his two sons on a fire, and severely burnt them up to their waists. They then violated the wife, daughter, and daughter-in-law.

Again, about the same date, also within a short distance of Gilan, the house of Jovin Grüich, in the village of Lipoviza, was entered by ten Mussulmans, who, on being refused money, poured molten lead on the man's head. He has now become insane!

I propose, as soon as a trustworthy person can be found, to make inquiries as to the truth of the report; for though my informant can be relied upon, it would be well to have these statements corroborated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 3.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 42.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, April 13, 1880.*

IT appears that the Mussulman refugees from Servia, of which there are about 80,000, have lately become troublesome, and threaten to make a raid into Servia to take possession of what formerly belonged to them.

I pointed out to Mukhtar Pasha, who gave me this information, that, according to the Treaty of Berlin, the refugees were permitted to return to their former homes; and that if they did not avail themselves of the opportunity offered, it was no doubt owing to their being kept in ignorance.

His Excellency replied that the conditions of the Treaty were well known to many; but that there existed some whose antecedents precluded them from returning to Servia, and that these were misleading the majority by giving it out that they would be repelled. Consequently, if they desired to regain what by their flight they had abandoned, a general attack ought to be made.

Mukhtar Pasha further informed me that, a few days back, several battalions had been sent to quell any disturbances that might arise; and that they had been fired into by the refugees, by which one officer and one artilleryman had been wounded.

Yesterday he called a meeting of the principal inhabitants of Prisrend, and, after explaining to them these facts, asked their opinion.

According to his account, it was decided that a forced entrance into Servia was, if possible, to be prevented, and that means ought to be found to dissuade the refugees from taking such a step; and, moreover, that notice should be given to the refugees at Prisrend that, if any of them joined the movement, their families would be turned out of the town. Mukhtar Pasha said that, by sending a few more battalions, order might be easily restored, as the refugees possessed only one fire-arm among twenty; but that in order to avoid effusion of blood, he had deputed Commissions from Prisrend, Jacova, and Ipek to persuade the refugees not to venture on an enterprise easily resisted by Servia, an probably entailing consequences by which their already difficult position would be considerably aggravated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 4.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 43. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, April 13, 1880.*

GHAZI MUKHTAR PASHA called yesterday to confide to me that he was about to leave Prisrend for Monastir, whence he should proceed to the Bulgarian frontier, to put down an insurrectionary movement; and further, that the few battalions of Redifs now quartered at Prisrend were to be disbanded and replaced by two regiments of Nizams, on their way here from Constantinople.

His Excellency assured me that tranquillity would now be maintained, and that he was leaving Prisrend without apprehension; especially as he had received a hint to the effect that the possession of the districts of Gusinjé and Plava would probably be retained by Turkey; and that Montenegro would be compensated by an exchange of territory—he did not mention where.

I confess to not sharing the optimism held by his Excellency; for it is not probable that a policy of temporization, such as he has adopted, will avail much or have any lasting effect on the turbulent Albanians.

In addition to the existing anarchy and its list of assassinations and persecutions, we are now threatened with a famine.

Owing to the unsettled state of the country for some time past, together with the failure of the crops last year, the common necessaries of life are gradually reaching famine prices.

The Government until now has issued stores for the relief of the refugees and most indigent among the poor; but its resources are exhausted, and the supply in the country not sufficient to satisfy the requirements of the population, even if it could be obtained at its normal value. It is to be expected, therefore, that acts of brigandage and robberies, attended by assassination and blood feuds, will now be more prevalent than ever.

Though Mukhtar Pasha's arrival here four months ago struck terror among all miscreants, and led the well-disposed to hope that a new order of things would be established, I have failed to notice any kind of improvement.

Those whom he accused of treachery and treason, and threatend to have arrested, are still at large; and I have not yet heard of a single case of an assassin having been brought to justice.

Until now Mukhtar Pasha has wasted much time in coquetting with the Chiefs and persistently maintaining that the Gusinjé question once settled, public security might be established without much difficulty. But I have many doubts as to the correctness of his judgment on this point, and am inclined to think that the Albanians will then turn their attention to a long-cherished scheme of self-government; which the Porte will find far more difficult to deal with than the Gusinjé question.

Persons who know the country well assure me that Mukhtar Pasha never understood the character of the people he had to deal with. Had he adopted severe measures from the very first, and inspired awe by hanging a few assassins, he would by this time have had the Albanians under perfect control; whereas his policy of inaction has exposed the weakness of the Government, and drawn on him the contempt of all classes.

If Turkey still desires to retain possession of this province, she must send at least twenty battalions commanded by a General who should entertain no scruples about sacrificing a little Mussulman blood when it is found necessary.

No half measures will avail here. Affairs must be taken seriously in hand, or matters will go from bad to worse, and an intervention on the part of the European Powers become an absolute necessity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 5.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 201.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, April 30, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 192, French Chargé d'Affaires has received instructions to join with his colleagues in calling upon the Porte peremptorily to reoccupy the positions to be ceded to Montenegro, and then to proceed to their cession in strict conformity with the Agreement.

It appears to me important that Her Majesty's Government should come to an understanding with the Cabinets on the subject, and send me instructions how to act without delay. German Ambassador is telegraphing in the same sense.

Russian Chargé d'Affaires is preparing for immediate action.

No. 6.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 203.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 1, 1880.*

AUSTRIAN Minister informs me that the Austrian Secretary of Embassy here, Baron de Kosnek, has been named to replace M. de Kallay on Commission on Organic Statutes.

No. 7.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(Most Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, April 30, 1880.*

I HAVE reason to believe that the Roman Catholic Albanians are beginning to feel that they have been urged into the present resistance against Montenegro by the Turkish authorities and Mussulman natives. They are likely to be abandoned by them as affairs proceed. They imagine that the Turks are anxious to see them weaken themselves, when they will make terms with Montenegro, to be better able hereafter to oppress the Roman Catholics. The latter, I think, may soon be not indisposed to listen to proposals for an arrangement between themselves and Montenegro, provided they can escape the bad faith of the Porte and Mahommedan Administration.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 8.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, April 30, 1880.*

MUSSULMAN village 12 miles north attacked second time within twenty days by armed Bulgarians. Two men wounded brought here. Neighbouring village attacked same night. Villagers declare cannot sleep for fear.

(Sent to Pera.)

No. 9.

Major Trotter to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(Telegraphic.) *Diarbekir, May 1, 1880.*

CAPTAIN CLAYTON telegraphs 400*l.* thus distributed:—Bashkala district, 200*l.*; Sharrakh and Nurouz, 175*l.*; Bitlis, 25*l.* Fearful distress in Bashkala. Fears present measures insufficient to prevent wholesale destruction of population.

No. 10.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 1, 1880.*

RUSSIAN Government have announced to me the appointment of M. Hitrovo, their Consul-General at Salonica, to be their Representative on the European Commission which they state is to assemble at Constantinople to discuss the Règlements for the Turkish provinces.

No. 11.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 1.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 1, 1880.*

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs will send to Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople instructions in same sense as your Lordship to Sir H. Layard, viz., to insist on the Porte answering whether Turkish troops will reoccupy the territory they have evacuated.

The information received by the Italian Government goes to confirm premeditated bad faith by Turkish Commander.

No. 12.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 111.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 1, 1880, 1·15 P.M.*

IN reply to your telegram No. 201, you should co-operate energetically with your German and other colleagues.

No. 13.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Representatives at Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, Rome, and Paris.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 1, 1880, 3 P.M.*

YOU will have seen from the telegrams to and from Sir H. Layard, respecting Montenegro, the instructions sent to him.

Inquire of the Government to which you are accredited what view they take of the matter, as Her Majesty's Government are anxious to act in concert with the other Powers upon it, and it demands pressing attention.

(Repeated to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 14.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 75.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 1, 1880, 4·30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Ambassador states that, European Frontier Commission for Montenegro having fixed 1st May for meeting, his Government has instructed its Delegates, M. le Consul-Général Lippich and M. Sauerwald, Captain on the Staff, to proceed to Ragusa by that date.

No. 15.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 1, 1880, 5·15 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Government have heard that 180 non-commissioned officers have arrived at Rustchuk, viâ Varna, *en route* for Sophia, and that 420 more are expected; that 15 Bulgarian non-commissioned officers have gone to Russia to receive horses given by Russian Government; that Russia has given to Bulgaria 20,000 Berdan rifles, of which 15,000 have arrived, and the remainder will be shipped in the steamer "Golubzile," also given to the Bulgarian Government. Have you any knowledge of the truth of these reports? See your predecessor's despatch No. 35.

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* Similar telegrams sent to Lord Odo Russell, Lord Lyons, Sir A. H. Layard, Sir A. Paget, the Earl of Dufferin, Mr. Kirby Green, and Captain Sale (care of Consulate at Ragusa).

No. 16.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 289.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1880.

ON the receipt of your telegram No. 201 of yesterday's date, I instructed your Excellency by telegraph to co-operate energetically with your German, French, and Russian colleagues in calling upon the Porte to give orders that its troops should reoccupy the positions to be ceded by Turkey to Montenegro, which they have evacuated without giving due notice to the Commander of the Montenegrin troops, as agreed to on the 12th ultimo between the Porte and Prince Nicholas, and to hand them over to Montenegro in strict conformity with the arrangements then made.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 17.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies.

My Lord,
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1880.

YOUR Excellency will have learnt from Sir H. Layard's telegram No. 201 of the 30th ultimo, and from my reply thereto, the nature of the instructions which have been sent to his Excellency respecting Montenegro.

I have to request you to inquire of the Government to which you are accredited what view they take of the matter, as Her Majesty's Government are anxious to act in concert with the other Powers with regard to this question, which is one that demands pressing attention.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 18.

Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Embassies, Mr. Kirby Green, and Captain Sale.

My Lord,
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1880.

I TRANSMIT to you, for your information, copy of a note from the Austro-Hungarian Ambassador,* in which his Excellency states that, the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro having fixed the 1st May for their next meeting, his Government have instructed their Delegates to the said Commission, M. le Consul-Général Lippich and M. Sauerwald, to meet their colleagues at Ragusa at that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 19.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 447.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1880.

IN my first interview with the French Chargé d'Affaires yesterday I took the opportunity to make some remarks as to the personal feelings of friendship which I entertained towards the French nation, and I said that I had watched with deep interest the working of its free institutions.

In speaking of European affairs I remarked that while it would be the earnest desire of Mr. Gladstone's Government to act in concert with the Great Powers of Europe, we did not, as a general rule, feel a preference for special alliances between individual States. Our desire would be to promote the common action of all. There was, however, no country to whose co-operation we attached a greater importance than France.

I thought that the three principal questions which interested England and France in

* See Part XLVIII, No. 352.

common at the present moment were Turkey, Egypt, and the commercial relations between the two countries.

That with regard to Turkey it was possible that a better understanding between the two Governments, and more combined action between their Representatives, might be obtained with good effect upon the solution of the important questions still in suspense. I should be happy to contribute as far as possible towards so desirable a result. I should be glad to know whether France would join with England and other Powers to exert pressure upon the Porte to execute fully the engagements of the Berlin Treaty.

With regard to Egypt I said I had not made myself master of all that had recently passed, and that there were perhaps things which I should not view favourably; but that I wished to start from the present basis, and to avail myself of the good understanding which I believed to exist between the two Governments to do all that could with propriety be done for the better government and administration of that country.

As regards the commercial relations between the two countries, the early arrival of M. Léon Say seemed to me a remarkably good sign of the happy understanding that might arise.

Count de Montebello promised to report my observations to his Government, and said that he had no doubt they would be ready to give the co-operation which we desired.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 20.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May* 1, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge and thank your Excellency for your note of the 28th ultimo, informing me that the European Commission for the delimitation of Montenegro having fixed the 1st May for their next meeting, the Austro-Hungarian Delegates to the said Commission, M. le Consul-Général Lippich and M. Sauerwald, had been instructed to meet their colleagues at Ragusa at that date.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 21.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 205.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 1, 1880.

SULTAN having asked me to see him to-day, I had an opportunity of informing him of the language you held to Musurus Pasha, as described in your telegram of yesterday.

His Majesty declared that it was his earnest desire to give effect without delay to the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin not yet fulfilled; which he said were the arrangement with Montenegro, which he considered settled, the Greek frontier question, and the reforms in Asiatic Turkey.

I pointed out that the Montenegrin question was so far from being settled that it threatened serious consequences unless the positions evacuated by the Turkish troops were again reoccupied by them, and the terms of the Agreement with Montenegro strictly carried out.

His Majesty said that he was about to send five battalions of troops at once to Scutari, with an officer in whom he had complete confidence, and he trusted that he would be able to persuade the Albanians not to oppose the reoccupation of positions by his troops; but His Majesty suggested that whilst the Montenegrins were allowed to occupy the plains, the two fortified points should be allowed to remain in the hands of the Turkish troops for a month or six weeks whilst measures were taken to remove the Albanian opposition. He said that he hoped he might be able to come to an arrangement with Montenegro to this effect.

His Majesty told me that he had been considering very seriously the expediency of calling the Chambers together, and returning to the Constitution somewhat modified, and he gave me to understand it was his intention to do so.

An identic note from the Representatives of the Signatory Powers will be sent to the

Porte at once insisting upon a categorical answer to the demand that the Turkish troops should reoccupy the evacuated positions.

No. 22.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 207.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1880.*

IN my telegram No. 205 please read "the two fortified points should be allowed to remain in hands of Albanians for a month," instead of "the two fortified points should be allowed to remain in hands of Turkish troops."

No. 23.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 208.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1880.*

BEDRI BEY, Turkish Commissioner for delimitation of Montenegrin frontier, leaves on Friday for Ragusa.

No. 24.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 34.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 2, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 47.

Minister for Foreign Affairs tells me that he will send instructions to-day to German Ambassador at Constantinople to join with his colleagues in calling upon Turkish Government to reoccupy the positions to be ceded to Montenegro, and then to proceed to their cession in conformity with the Agreement.

No. 25.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 2.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 2, 1880.*

BEFORE receiving your telegram of yesterday I had communicated to Minister for Foreign Affairs instructions to Sir H. Layard respecting the Montenegrin frontier, and I wrote to him to-day to ask whether he would authorize me to tell your Lordship that he would send similar instructions to Austrian Minister. He has answered that he thinks he will do so, but before coming to a decision he wishes to talk the matter over with me to-morrow.

I believe that his hesitation arises from his believing, like Mr. Green, that it is not now possible for the Turks to reoccupy the positions.

No. 26.

Sir A. H. Layard to Lord Tenterden. (Received May 3.)

Constantinople, April 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to forward to you herewith a memorandum by Mr. Assistant Block on the subject of the appointment of Financial Inspectors to the different vilayets of the Turkish Empire, and of the result of their labours.

As your Lordship will perceive, Mr. Block states that this information is not very reliable. I will endeavour to ascertain how far it is so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Memorandum.

Constantinople, April 26, 1880.

WITH reference to Lord Tenterden's telegram of the 23rd April concerning the Financial Inspectors, I saw Edib Effendi, the Minister of Finance, on Saturday, and was by him referred to the "Inspection Department," and learnt that of the first nominated M. Giron, French subject, had carried out his work in the Vilayet of Aïdin and the islands of the Archipelago very satisfactorily, and the Ministry of Finance was much pleased with him, inasmuch that they had promoted him to be head inspector of that district.

Mr. Calvert, British subject, appointed to Broussa, Konieh, and Angora Vilayets, had resigned; in his place Mr. Weisenthal, at first nominated to Salonica, &c., had been appointed. Mr. Weisenthal's work had been well done; in addition to a good knowledge of his work, he possessed a great advantage from his knowledge of Turkish.

Mr. Balvet, Austro-Hungarian, had been appointed to Bagdad, Moussoul, and Bassorah, but upon his arrival at Daporah he had resigned, contrary to the wish of the Ministry of Finance, and left Bassorah for India without entering upon his duties.

Mr. Harry Suter, son of the English late Vice-Consul at Volo, had been appointed instead of Mr. Calvert, and had proceeded to the post vacated by Mr. Weisenthal, changed to Broussa, viz., Inspectorship of Salonica, Janina, Monastir, and Scutari. Mr. Suter was recommended by Mr. Foster, of the Imperial Ottoman Bank, but as yet they can give no opinion as to his merits.

I was told that the Inspection Department hoped to make a report on the working of this system, and that no doubt the Minister of Finance would present a copy of it to Her Majesty's Embassy.

(Signed) A. BLOCK.

I would venture to add that more reliable information could be obtained from Her Majesty's Consuls on the spot, who would be more likely to know to what extent these Inspectors have been successful in their work, and whose Reports would be more trustworthy than those given by the Ministry of Finance.

No. 27.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 176.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 16, 1880.*

AS I have already had the honour to report to your Lordship by telegraph, Baron Haymerle informed me to-day that the text of the arrangement which has been concluded between the Porte and Montenegro for the demarcation of the Turkish and Montenegrin frontier has been communicated by the Turkish Ambassador to his Excellency, who is perfectly satisfied with it, and will at once authorize the Austrian Minister at Constantinople to sign the Protocol.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 28.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 182.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 23, 1880.*

CAPTAIN SALE, Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Montenegrin frontier, who has arrived in Vienna on his way to Ragusa, having represented to me that the International Telegraph Convention only entitles Diplomatic and Consular Agents to forward cyphered telegrams, I thought it desirable to request that the Imperial telegraph stations should be instructed to raise no difficulties about forwarding the cyphered communications of the Commissioners, and orders to the above effect have in consequence been given.

As I found that Captain Sale believed that the Commissioners would propose to commence their work on the northern or Herzegovinian frontier, I asked Baron Haymerle whether he considered this the most desirable course for them to follow.

His Excellency replied that, on the contrary, he thought it of the greatest importance that no time should be lost in definitively laying down the frontier between Montenegro

and Albania, according to the arrangement just come to at Constantinople, so that all uncertainty may be put an end to in the only direction where any difficulty is likely to be found.

He further said that correct maps of the country, through which the Montenegrin-Herzegovinian frontier would be drawn, were in the course of preparation, but were not yet completed.

I have informed Captain Sale of Baron Haymerle's opinion, telling him that I thought there was much force in what his Excellency said in favour of the earliest possible settlement of the frontier of Albania, where all uncertainty with regard to it seems likely to prolong the prevailing agitation.

I have, &c.
Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 29.

Sir H. Elliot to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 187.)
My Lord, *Vienna, April 28, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador inquired yesterday of Baron Haymerle whether he was disposed to accept the proposal of his Government that the Porte should be called upon to submit the new laws for the administration of the Turkish provinces to a European Commission to be formed for the purpose of examining them.

His Excellency replied that the Porte had already intimated that the laws had been prepared and were ready to be laid before the Eastern Roumelian Commission, according to the provision of the Treaty of Berlin, and he conceived that this would be the more proper mode of proceeding; and he convinced M. d'Oubril that his Government were under a misapprehension in supposing that the Commission had been dissolved.

Baron Haymerle observed that there was nothing to render it obligatory on any of the Powers to be represented on the Commission by the same persons as had originally been members of it, for some changes had already been made before the Commission dispersed.

M. d'Oubril, in speaking to me after leaving Baron Haymerle, said he had no doubt of his Excellency being correct in considering that the Eastern Roumelian Commission had not been dissolved, and was convinced that the view of the Austrian Government would be adopted by his Cabinet.

He said that his Government were anxious that no time should be lost in proceeding to an examination of the laws, and Baron Haymerle is equally desirous of it

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Lieutenant-Colonel Primrose to Sir H. Elliot.—(Received at the Foreign Office, May 3.)

Sir, *Vienna, April 19, 1880.*

THE present situation of affairs in the Austro-Hungarian Empire with respect to the Slav and Italian influences at work in antagonism to the existing union have been summed in the following views, which may be taken to express the views of the Emperor himself on the matter, and which have been given me on safe authority. The agitation of the Italia Irredenta party, though directed principally against Trieste, the Tyrol, and Trieste, found an electrical sympathy in Bosnia, Herzegovina, and Dalmatia, and even at Belgrade and Bucharest. There is little doubt but that the Italian Minister, Count Tornielli, made certain propositions to the Servian Government—and carried them with him to the Roumanian—which were based on an accord with the secret societies his Government have been at pains to disavow; while the difficulties the Austrian Government has found in the settlement of its business with the Turks is ascribed to the advice given the latter by the Italians to draw it into some difficulty that will hamper its action or paralyze its resistance.

The idea appears to be this. The Slavs of Montenegro and Servia are to detach Bosnia and Herzegovina from Austrian influence, incorporate Dalmatia and Istria, and, advancing as far as Laibach, assist the wishes of the Italians. Meanwhile, the Slovenians, aided by Croatia and by the Serbs, would press on Hungary by Czegled, their co-nationalists helping them from the north.

It was only a fear of this combination which induced the Hungarians to consent to

the occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the last argument used being, "If this step be not taken, the Slavs will be at the gates of Buda."

Considering these probabilities, the Austrian cannot believe in any English assistance to the Slavs, as the completion of the latter's programme would also embrace the destruction of the English influence in the Mediterranean.

The Austrian Government trusts much to the feeling of the Italian-speaking population in their favour, and certainly, as far as I can personally judge from visits to Görz, Aquileia, Trieste, and Fiume, the people, though, perhaps, at times sentimentally inclined towards Italy, find no reason for wishing to change their Government. At Görz and Aquileia this attachment to the Austrians is especially strong.

Consequently, though four years ago there were three divisions (at Gratz, Laibach, and Trieste) between Vienna and the frontier, at present there are only two. One extra regiment, however, has been sent to Trieste to reinforce the usual garrison of two regiments, as the shifting population of that town could not be fully depended upon.

In this vicinity, indeed, one journalist was arrested amongst whose papers were found direct communications with some members of the Italian Government.

The sense of insecurity these intrigues occasion the Austrians makes them even view the good faith of the Greeks with suspicion, for the first spark produced by the friction of any contending elements, such as Albanians and Christians, might easily be fanned by the Slavs into a dangerous conflagration.

The Austrian Government flatters itself it has satisfied Prince Nicholas of Montenegro, "who has been very open in his wishes, and seems, indeed, to wish for half Herzegovina." It would like to have as well done with the Turks in Bosnia, but it has not yet been able to shake off the Turkish Commissioner, Husni Pasha, nor to get a decision with regard to the arms.

As I mentioned some time back, Husni Pasha has been recalled by his own Government, and the Duke of Würtemberg was congratulating himself early in March that he would find himself quite unfettered.

Husni Pasha, however, while declaring himself anxious to obey his orders and willing to please the Austrians, now says he has not money enough to move, and that he can only go when the necessary funds arrive. Upon this the Commander of the Army Corps at Mitrovitza—Osman Pasha—has been several times urged, even by telegraph, to make the required advance, but as yet quite without effect; and from my own experience of that General, I should be inclined to say that, if Husni's departure from Serajevo really depends on him, Husni is likely to stay there a good time longer.

And as long as Husni stays, the few negotiations relative to the occupation with the Turkish authorities—which are still incomplete—will still further be delayed, as they give him something to do. The captured arms will still remain in the Austrian citadel of Serajevo, as a useless incumbrance. To come to a decision on their disposal would end all differences. The Austrians have offered the Turks, who cannot afford to carry off these cannon, &c., to throw them into the Drina free of charge; but this solution has not, I need scarcely add, been accepted.

Complaints are prevalent against the Austrian officialism in Bosnia, and no security seems given for the acquisition or disposal of land. To all petitions for action in this direction the Austrians reply that they are but temporary occupiers of Bosnia, and that such matters are for the Turkish authorities to determine; but these same Turkish authorities have disappeared.

The Austrians, however, certainly regard the Slavs as their greatest evil, and the programme to be expected by their success presents itself to the mind of their Government as above.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. PRIMROSE, *Lieutenant-Colonel, Military Attaché.*

No. 31.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 64.)
My Lord, *Sophia, April 19, 1880.*

THE Bulgarian Chamber has been entirely occupied, since its meeting on the 4th instant, in verifying the elections of the Deputies. The result has been that several of the elections have been declared invalid; and, among others, that of M. Greeoff, the late Minister of the Interior.

In a conversation which I have had with M. Zancoff, his Excellency complained that the late Ministry had entirely neglected to prepare any projects of law for submission to the Chamber. Out of the numerous subjects mentioned in the speech of the Prince on the opening of the Chamber as requiring immediate legislation, there was not one on which a project of law had been prepared. His Excellency went on to say that it was absolutely necessary that the administration of the country should be entirely reorganized, and that until that was done it would not be possible to estimate the expenditure and to draw up a Budget.

I believe it is not unlikely that M. Zancoff will recommend the Prince to adjourn the Chamber until the new Ministry have had time to prepare the various Bills which will have to be submitted to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 32.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 65.)
Sophia, April 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I INQUIRED of M. Zancoff some days ago as to the truth of the rumours which I had heard with regard to the scarcity of corn, and the measures which the Government were said to be taking in order to relieve the population who were in want of bread.

M. Zancoff replied that there could be no doubt that in certain districts there was a scarcity of corn. On the other hand, there were several corn merchants who were holding back their supplies of corn in the hopes that the prohibition now in force against the exportation of corn would be removed, and that they would have an opportunity of selling in foreign markets. His Excellency added, that he had sent instructions to the local authorities to report at once as to the amount of corn required in their districts to avert a famine. His Excellency would then propose to the Council of Ministers that the prohibition against the exportation of corn should be removed, on the condition that the merchants should sell to the Government at cost price a certain quantity, either 10 or 20 per cent., as the case might be, of the corn which they had in their possession.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 33.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 66.)
Sophia, April 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 61 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inclose a copy of a further despatch which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople on the subject of the return of the Mussulman refugees in Bulgaria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Mr. Lascelles to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sophia, April 19, 1880.

Sir,

ON the 14th instant Nihat Pasha called upon me, and told me that he had received instructions from the Porte to negotiate with M. Zancoff with regard to the return of the Bulgarian Mussulman refugees. He had had an interview with M. Zancoff, and was pleased with the manner in which his Excellency treated the question. He thought that they would be able to come to an arrangement with regard to the regulations for the guidance of the Commission, and in the meantime he trusted to obtain permission for those on the frontier to return at once. In answer to a remark of mine that M. Zancoff had expressed his disbelief in the existence of large numbers of refugees on the frontier,

Nihat Pasha informed me that M. Zancoff had in his possession a list, giving the names of 587 families, consisting of 2,732 persons.

Immediately after Nihat Pasha left me I sent to your Excellency my telegram of the 14th instant.

On the 17th instant I again saw M. Zancoff, and asked him how the matter stood. He replied that there were three points which it would be necessary to settle before the refugees could be allowed to return:—

1. The different localities to which they belonged.
2. That they should be provided with the means of subsistence.
3. That an arrangement should be made as regards the persons who were now occupying the lands, many of whom were immigrants from Macedonia, and for whom accommodation had been found in the villages which the Turks had left. An agreement on these points was absolutely necessary, on account of the brigandage which still existed in Bulgaria, and which would be likely to be increased by an influx of a large number of destitute persons, and also on account of the scarcity of grain, which was becoming so serious that the Government were considering what measures would have to be taken to prevent a famine.

With regard to the return of the refugees on the frontier, M. Zancoff again expressed his disbelief in their existence, and on my referring to the list which Nihat Pasha had mentioned, his Excellency said that the list in question referred to refugees who were not on the Bulgarian frontier, but in the Vilayet of Adrianople.

I told M. Zancoff that I trusted that this question would soon be settled, that it was one that was engaging the attention of the Powers, the French Agent and Consul-General having received instructions to report to his Government upon the subject, and that a further delay could not fail to produce a bad impression.

In a conversation which I subsequently had with the Prince, I repeated to his Highness what I had said to M. Zancoff. His Highness said that he had hoped that arrangements would have been made for the return of the refugees during the course of this month, but the scarcity of corn had rendered the question very difficult, as it was impossible to admit large numbers of destitute persons into the Principality without having the means of maintaining them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 34.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 67. Confidential.)
Sophia, April 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that two Russian capitalists, Messrs. Günsburg and Poliakoff, made some proposals to the late Bulgarian Government for the establishment of a National Bank in Bulgaria. The statutes of this bank, as proposed by these gentlemen, and which are said to have been accepted by the late Government, confer such extensive powers upon the bank that the Government of the Principality would practically be in their hands. I have been shown confidentially a copy of these statutes, by which the bank would obtain the following privileges:—

The sole right of issuing bank notes, which would be legal tender;
The coining of money;
The collection of taxes;
The raising of loans for the construction and working of railways, and the development of the mineral resources of the country;
The arrangements for the transfer and mortgage of real property, &c.

The Austrian Agent and Consul-General has informed me that he has protested against the clause regarding the railways, and has advised M. Zancoff not to hand over the whole finances of the country into the hands of a Russian firm.

I have been confidentially informed that the Prince, who has not much experience in financial matters, is favourably disposed towards the establishment of the bank which undertakes to advance a considerable sum of money for the improvement of the town of Sophia, in which his Highness takes a great interest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 35.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 68. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, April* 19, 1880.

IN a conversation which I had some days ago with M. Zancoff, his Excellency spoke about the difficulty of finding persons sufficiently qualified to fill the different posts in the Administration. There were very few Bulgarians who had any experience in matters of business. It would necessarily take some time before such experience could be acquired, and in the meantime it was very difficult to carry on the Government of the country in a satisfactory manner. I suggested to his Excellency that under these circumstances it would be advisable to attempt to secure the services of foreigners of experience. His Excellency replied that up to the present time all the foreign employés in Bulgaria were Russians, who were working much more for the interest of their own country than that of Bulgaria. He was most anxious that Bulgaria should become entirely independent, and he would gladly see the number of Russian employés diminished; but it would be impossible for the Prince to apply for the services of foreigners of other nationalities, while attempting to reduce the number of Russians at present in the Bulgarian service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 36.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 181.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April* 25, 1880.

I AM told by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, with whom I spoke on the subject of your Lordship's telegram No. 39, that Count Hatzfeldt, the German Ambassador at Constantinople, has already been instructed to act with Sir A. H. Layard and his other colleagues in regard to the Montenegrin frontier question, and insist at the Porte on the strict execution of the Protocol of the 18th instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 37.

Lord Odo Russell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 185.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April* 28, 1880.

THE Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I questioned respecting your Lordship's telegram No. 37, told me that the Turkish Ambassador at Berlin had made a similar communication to him, and that the German Government were willing, in concert with the Signatory Powers, to agree to the request of the Turkish Government for a meeting at Constantinople of a European Commission, in order that the new Règlement for the European provinces of Turkey may be submitted to them, as prescribed by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 38.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 187. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, April* 29, 1880.

IN reply to Lord Tenterden's telegram of the 24th instant, requesting me to send a memorandum on the principal questions in discussion at present, I am glad to say that none of the pending questions are likely to affect the perfect harmony now happily established between England and Germany.

Prince Bismarck shows an earnest desire in all questions connected with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin to subordinate his views to those of the English Government, and to give his support to England, whose interests in the East he considers to be of far greater importance than those of Germany. He is even more willing to give his support to any combined policy of England and France—as, for instance, in Egypt, because he looks upon an Anglo-French alliance as the basis of peace and order in Europe, and wishes Germany to become a party to it practically, by giving that alliance his support in the general interest of peace.

The still pending questions in the East are those connected with the Montenegrin frontier, the Turco-Greek frontier, the Roumanian frontier at Arab-Tabia, the Servian Agrarian Law question, and the question of sending the German Commissioner back to Eastern Roumelia.

In regard to the Montenegrin frontier question, the German Ambassador has been instructed to support Her Majesty's Ambassador and the Austrian Representative at Constantinople.

If any serious difference of opinion should arise, which is unlikely, Prince Bismarck would certainly support the wishes of his ally, Austria, as the nearest neighbour to Montenegro, and would probably not object to Austrian interference if the Porte should fail to carry out the Convention of the 18th instant, and prove unable to re-establish order in the disputed districts.

Although Prince Bismarck declared himself ready to adopt the proposals of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the rectification of the Turco-Greek frontier, his sympathies have all along been with the French proposal for the largest concession possible to Greece. Any further proposal on which the Governments of England and France may hereafter agree will be sure to have the support of Germany, where the desire to contribute to the development of Greece is genuine and general.

In regard to Arab-Tabia, the final adherence of the Russian Government to the decision of the majority of the Signatory Powers has been announced by M. de Giers to the German Government.

In the Servian Agrarian question the German Government will follow the lead of Austria in offering advice to the Government of Servia.

The proposal to send back the German Commissioner, who is now Secretary to the German Embassy at Constantinople, to Philippopoli to assist Mr. Michell and the Austrian Consul in supporting and advising the Director of Finance is not likely to be adopted by the German Government, who do not appear to wish to interfere in Eastern Roumelia, and do not even intend to appoint a German Consul at Philippopoli.

On the other hand, the German Government are willing, in concert with the Signatory Powers, to agree to the request of the Turkish Government that the Commissioners for the organization of Eastern Roumelia may meet at Constantinople in order that the new "Règlements" for the European provinces of Turkey may be submitted to them, as prescribed by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 39.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 3.)

(No. 345.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 2, 1880.

IN pursuance of the instruction contained in your Lordship's telegram of yesterday afternoon, I spoke to M. de Freycinet last night of the Turkish proceedings with regard to the evacuation of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro.

I said that the matter appeared to your Lordship to require immediate attention, that you desired to act in concert with the other Powers in regard to it, and that you were anxious to know what view was taken of it by the French Government.

M. de Freycinet said that the Turks had played their part so badly, that it seemed to him that the piece must be played over again. The Turks must, he conceived, be called upon to resume the positions they had evacuated, and then to proceed to the cession of them in conformity with the terms of the agreement; in short, to proceed in such a manner as to hand the positions over effectually to the Montenegrins.

M. de Freycinet went on to say, that he had made these views known to the French Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, and had directed him to act in concert with the Representatives of the other Powers.

I told his Excellency that your Lordship had also directed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to act in concert with his colleagues in this important matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 40.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 3.)

Admiralty, May 1, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send you, for the information of the Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, copies of two letters dated 7th and 10th April last from Captain Rising, of Her Majesty's ship "Eclipse," reporting his proceedings at Jeddah and the state of affairs at Mecca, in consequence of the appointment of Abdul Moutaleb as Grand Sheriff.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 40.

Captain Rising to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Eclipse," at Jeddah, April 7, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that the news of the appointment of the unpopular candidate, Abdul Moutaleb, as Grand Sheriff, reached Her Majesty's Consul on the 5th instant, and caused much consternation among the people as to the probable result.

2. I at once requested M. Zohrab to write to the Acting Grand Sheriff at Mecca, brother of An-Oon (the other and popular candidate for the appointment), and ascertain from him whether he thinks he will be able to prevent his people attacking the other tribe, and so putting a stop to all communication and trade here, and possible attack on the city after. If, as I think probable from the wording of the appointment, viz., "that Abdul Moutaleb, being over 90 years of age, cannot live long," and An-Oon would succeed him, he will be able to do so. The "Philomel" being here, I shall at one proceed to Souakin, Massowah, and Aden, in accordance with my orders, leaving orders with Commander Berners to remain here, and if after the arrival of Abdul Moutaleb, who is daily expected, the tribes then still remain peaceful, to carry out his orders at his discretion after consulting with Her Majesty's Consul here. Up to the present all is quiet.

3. At the moment of sending this Her Majesty's ship "Seagull" has made her number in the offing coming in.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. RISING

Inclosure 2 in No. 40.

Captain Rising to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Eclipse," at Jeddah, April 10, 1880.

Sir,

YESTERDAY, as I expected, I received a reply from Abdillah at Mecca. He states that he "has delivered over the acting charge as Grand Sheriff to Abdul Moutaleb's son" (a man from all accounts of no great talents and no great vices), "and has used and will use his utmost endeavours to prevent his people causing any disturbance, as he only desires to carry out the Sultan's wishes and orders to the utmost."

2. Private advices were also brought in to the Consul by some of the principal merchants here and read to him and myself yesterday morning, which fully confirm his statements, adding further that Abdillah's head-men pressed him to resist, but he refused and turned the men out of his presence instantly, and that this decided conduct on his part has had the effect of greatly quieting everyone.

3. This being the case I have sent the "Seagull" back to Aden this day, and leave myself on Monday morning for Souakin, Massowah, and Aden, leaving the "Philomel" to await the arrival of Abdul Moutaleb, and then if no disturbances arise for a week after,

I have satisfied myself that there is no fear of any occurring save through possible oppressive acts of his, and in the face of his assurances to the Sultan to "use his best endeavours to keep order," and his excessive age, I think, and Her Majesty's Consul joins me therein, that it will be his interest not to give those causes, and I do not think the presence of a man-of-war permanently here will then any longer be necessary, save at the Pilgrim season, and the "Philomel" will, therefore, after consultation with Her Majesty's Consul, carry out her orders.

I inclose translations of two letters received from Abdillah, which amply show his intentions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. RISING.

Inclosure 3 in No. 40.

Acting Grand Sheriff Abdillah Pasha to Consul Zohrab.

Mecca, April 8, 1880.

(After compliments.)

I HAVE received your letter informing me that Abdul Moutaleb has been appointed Prince of Mecca, and you counsel me to endeavour to keep the people quiet. I fully understand all the advice you give, and I thank you most sincerely for the friendship you have shown. As it is a sacred duty to obey the orders of superiors, and to protect public interests, my sincere desire is to submit to the wishes of His Majesty the Sultan, and to act for the benefit of the people, and especially for those who come to this Holy Land, where every one expects to be at peace.

In obedience to instructions, I have this day made over my acting power to the agent of Abdul Moutaleb, the new Grand Sheriff, and I am endeavouring to the utmost to act up to the wishes of the Sultan. My success in this will prove that to us will be due the credit of continued tranquillity in this country.

I beg you to accept what I now tell you for your information as a token of my lasting esteem and great friendship for you.

(Signed) ABDILLAH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 40.

Abdillah Pasha to his Agent at Jeddah, Omer Nassif Effendi.

Mecca, April 6, 1880.

I HAVE received your letter reporting the arrival of the Austrian steamer, and the intelligence received by the English Consul and others, and stating that you have seen the Consul, who confirmed what you had heard. All is according to the will of the Almighty; far or near, we are always the servants of the Sultan, whether in favour or out of favour. Our trust is in God, and in the honesty of our past services. I have had a thought which has led me to write a letter to the Governor-General of the Hedjaz, which I now inclose, and which I wish you to hand yourself to his Excellency. Beg his Excellency, if he has received any instructions regarding us, whether we are to be sent to Constantinople, or any other order, not to conceal it from us, for we are ready to obey any and every order, and if any ill-disposed person say anything to him against us, I beg him not to credit any such words, as our wish is only to accept and obey the Will of God and the orders of our master the Sultan. Thus, if his Excellency has received any instructions, a word will be sufficient for us to obey.

I shall continue to act as Grand Sheriff as instructed by his Excellency, and we are doing all we can to keep the population quiet and matters straight. We pray to God that our efforts will be crowned with success.

I have to instruct you to keep a strict watch, so that public tranquillity may not be disturbed.

(Signed) ABDILLAH.

No. 41.

Count de Montebello to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

Londres, le 30 Avril, 1880.

M. le Comte,

A LA date du 17 Avril dernier le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Sa Majesté le Sultan a adressé à ses Représentants auprès des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin une Circulaire, leur enjoignant, en vertu du quatrième paragraphe de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, de provoquer de la part de la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale l'examen des Règlements d'administration provinciale préparés par la Sublime Porte et adaptés aux besoins locaux des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe pour lesquelles une organisation particulière n'a point été édictée par le Congrès.

La Russie considérant que la Commission de la Roumélie Orientale est dissoute et d'autre part que les conditions prescrites par le Traité de Berlin pour l'élaboration des Règlements n'ont pas été exécutées, demande qu'une Commission Européenne Spéciale soit nommée pour procéder à Constantinople, sous le contrôle des Ambassadeurs, à l'examen de ces Règlements.

Mon Gouvernement désirerait connaître sur ce point l'opinion du Gouvernement de la Reine.

Il pense que les travaux de la Commission de Roumélie ont été en effet suspendus, mais qu'elle n'a jamais été officiellement dissoute, et qu'au lieu de nommer une Commission Spéciale, il serait préférable de s'en tenir aux termes du Traité de Berlin ; que si certains membres de la Commission ont été appelés à d'autres fonctions depuis la session dernière, il serait facile de les remplacer simplement par de nouveaux titulaires ; enfin, que la Commission reconstituée, aurait toute compétence pour émettre en temps que besoin, un avis sur la régularité des opérations préliminaires d'où sont sortis les Règlements d'administration provinciale proposés par le Gouvernement Ottoman, et pour exercer à ce point de vue le contrôle réclamé comme nécessaire par le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg.

Il est prêt, quant à ce qui le concerne, à inviter le Délégué Français à se rendre à Constantinople pour répondre à l'appel de la Porte Ottomane.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) C^te^ G. DE MONTEBELLO.

No. 42.

General Menabrea to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

Londres, le 1^er^ Mai, 1880.

M. le Comte,

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que le Lieutenant-Colonel Ottolenghi, Délégué Italien auprès de la Commission Internationale pour la Délimitation du Monténégro, a reçu ordre de se trouver à Raguse aujourd'hui même, date fixée pour la reprise des travaux.

Dans le cas où il retarderait de quelques jours son arrivée, et si la Commission se réunissait pendant cet intervalle, il sera provisoirement remplacé par le Chevalier Durando, Chargé d'Affaires d'Italie près Son Altesse le Prince de Monténégro.

Agréez, &c.

(Signé) MENABREA.

No. 43.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 41.)
(Telegraphic.)

Rome, May 2, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 51.

A telegram was sent last night to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople, stating that the explanation given in the Turkish Circular in regard to Montenegro does not appear to Italian Government at all satisfactory.

Turkish Government ought to feel the responsibility now weighing on it, and hasten to put an end to the situation, the danger of which increases every day. It is necessary that the Porte should scrupulously put into execution Agreement entered into with Montenegro, by causing the Turkish troops to reoccupy positions, with a view to their regular cession to the Principality.

The Chargé d'Affaires is directed to act in concert with his colleagues of England, France, and other Powers, in order to attain desired end. He is to warn the Porte that it is a question of supreme interest for Turkey, and that every delay may have the most disastrous consequences.

No. 44.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(No. 209.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 2, 1880.

MY despatch to you of 26th April.

Consul-General Blunt states that Mr. Suter was appointed, on 4th ultimo, Financial Inspector at Salonica, but having received no instructions regarding his duties and salary he is discouraged and inclined to give up his appointment.

No. 45.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

May 2, 1880.

I HAVE received Lord Dufferin's of 30th April.

Russian Government do not appear to have informed Zelinoi of my views. He appears to expect to go to Khotour, which I consider would be worse than useless, as the whole business may be settled in a few hours by him and me only, if he receives instructions to delimitate the territory according to the line which he has already concurred with Kemball. These delays are unfortunate and pure waste of time, and I trust that every effort will be made to cause him to meet his colleagues at once, either here or at Khotour.

No. 46.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3.)

(Telegraphic.)

Sophia, May 3, 1880.

MY Austrian colleague informs me that the information referred to in your telegram of yesterday is in the main correct. The number of rifles, of which a portion has been received, is 35,000 instead of 20,000. He tells me that the work of converting old rifles into breech-loaders is being actively carried on at the arsenal of Rasgrad, to which twenty-five Russians have been lately sent to replace workmen of other nationalities. The "Golubsin" is on the Danube. She is an old boat, and unarmed. The number of horses given by Russia is from 800 to 1,000. Twenty breech-loading guns were also given by head-quarters some time ago.

No. 47.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 3, 6·15 P.M.)

(No. 47.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 3, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE is most desirous of acting in concert with the other Powers, and is sending instructions to the Austrian Minister at Constantinople to join his colleagues in calling on the Porte to answer the demand they have made for the reoccupation of the positions on the Montenegrin frontier.

He thinks, however, that in every step that is taken it is necessary to consider how far it may lead.

It may turn out that the Porte refuses to reoccupy, or, as is more probable, that it may really be unable to do so; and his Excellency asks what is to be done if either of those eventualities occurs. He does not wish to drift into some uncertain course, and it would not suit Austria either to make an active intervention in Albania herself or to see it attempted by any other Power.

No. 48.

*Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 291.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1880.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your information, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin†, relative to the reassembly at Constantinople of the Delegates of the International Commission for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia, in order that they may take into their consideration the Organic Laws which have been prepared for the other European provinces of Turkey, as stipulated by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 49.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 174.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a note which has been received from Prince Lobanow,‡ inclosing a copy of a Circular dated the 9th ultimo which has been addressed by M. de Giers to the European Powers, relative to the desire of the Porte that the Delegates belonging to the European Commission which was appointed under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin should be instructed to re-assemble at Constantinople, in order that they may take into their consideration the organic laws for the government of the European provinces of Turkey, which have been prepared by the several Commissions appointed *ad hoc*, as stipulated by Article XXIII of the Treaty.

A copy of the reply which has been returned to M. de Giers' communication is likewise inclosed,§ and I have to request that you will have the goodness to explain to his Excellency the views of Her Majesty's Government upon this matter, as contained in my note to Prince Lobanow.

Copies of the communication which has been made to Her Majesty's Government upon this subject by the Porte, and of my reply to the Turkish Ambassador in London, are also forwarded for your Excellency's information.‖

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 50.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 175.) *Foreign Office, May 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to previous correspondence and to the recent telegrams which have passed between your Excellency and this Department, I transmit herewith copies of two despatches which have been received from Major-General Sir E. Hamley, relative to the proceedings of the Commission for defining the Frontier of Turkey in Asia under the Treaty of Berlin.¶

I have now to request that your Excellency will have the goodness to continue to urge the Russian Government to afford every facility in their power to enable Sir E. Hamley to carry out, with all possible expedition, the business on which he has specially been sent to Constantinople, in which capital he is now awaiting the decision of the Imperial Cabinet with regard to the movements of his Russian colleague.

Your Excellency is aware that the appointment of Sir E. Hamley as successor to Lieutenant-Colonel Clark, was made by Her Majesty's late advisers, in the hope that his superior rank and well-known experience on similar missions of this character would be

* Also to Lord Lyons, Sir A. Paget, Sir H. Elliot, and Lord Odo Russell.
† See Part XLVIII, Nos. 219 and 311; and *infra*, Nos. 49, 51, and 52.
‡ See Part XLVIII, No. 311.
§ See *infra*, No. 52.
‖ See Part XLVIII, No. 219, and No. 51, *infra*.
¶ Ibid., Nos. 346 and 348.

regarded as evidence of a desire on their part that the proceedings of the Commission should be promptly carried through in a conciliatory spirit and to the satisfaction of all parties interested in the settlement of these questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 51.

Earl Granville to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the desire expressed by the Sublime Porte, as contained in the circular from Sawas Pasha which your Excellency communicated to this Department on the 20th ultimo, for the reassembly, at Constantinople, of the Delegates of the International Commission for the Organization of Eastern Roumelia, in order that they may give advice upon the organic laws which have been prepared for the other European provinces of Turkey, as provided by Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have now the honour to state to your Excellency that it is the intention of Her Majesty's Government shortly to appoint a British Delegate or Delegates for the above purpose to replace Sir H. D. Wolff and Lord Donoughmore, whose engagements in this country will prevent their resuming their duties on the Commission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 52.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May 3, 1880.*

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's note of the 27th ultimo, I have now the honour to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government have had under their consideration the proposal laid before the Powers, parties to the Treaty of Berlin, by M. de Giers in his Circular of the 9th ultimo, for the appointment of a Special European Commission, which should meet at Constantinople, under the control of the Ambassador, in order to carry out the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty, with regard to the organic laws for the government of the European provinces of Turkey.

In reply I have the honour to point out to your Excellency, that this Article stipulates that the schemes of organization resulting from the labours of the Special Commissions nominated by the Porte for their preparation "shall be submitted for examination by the Sublime Porte, which, before promulgating the Act for putting them into force, shall consult the European Commission instituted for Eastern Roumelia."

There would seem, therefore, to be some misapprehension on this point, as M. de Giers speaks of the Commission which was formed under Article XVIII of the Treaty, in concert with the Ottoman Porte, for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, as having been dissolved.

That Commission, however, was only adjourned on the completion of the task for which it had been specially convoked, until such time as the laws for the government of the other European provinces of the Empire should have been prepared by the several Commissions nominated *ad hoc* by the Porte, and be ready for submission by that Government to the appreciation of the International Commissioners for Eastern Roumelia. Moreover, it is to be observed that those Commissioners acted independently of the Ambassadors of the Signatory Powers.

I have to add that Her Majesty's Government understand that some of the other Powers have already, in compliance with the invitation of the Porte, directed their Delegates to proceed to Constantinople, and, as Sir H. D. Wolff and Lord Donoughmore are unable to resume their duties on the Eastern Roumelian Commission, Her Majesty's Government propose shortly to appoint a Delegate or Delegates to succeed them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 53.

Mr. White to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 60.)

Bucharest, April 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to forward, for the information of Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, the accompanying French official copy of the law, promulgated with the sanction of the Legislature, on the subject of the government and "status" of the province and inhabitants of the Dobrudscha.

This law has a provisional character, but it has been drawn up with due regard to the exceptional condition of that district and in a liberal spirit towards its Mahommedan population.

It has given occasion to warm discussions in both Chambers, and the original project of the Minister of the Interior has been considerably amended during its progress, some important changes in it having been advocated by Deputies who consulted Suleiman Bey, the Ottoman Envoy at this Court.

By his tact and conciliatory disposition, this Representative of the Sultan has gained general esteem at Bucharest, and his personal influence contributed to clear up a few errors which might have crept in into an Organic Law, affecting a population so different in every way from the other inhabitants of Roumania.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

Inclosure in No. 53.

Organic Law for the Dobrudscha.

CHARLES I,
Par la grâce de Dieu et la volonté nationale, Prince des Roumains.
A tous présents et à venir, santé.
Les Corps Législatifs ayant voté, nous sanctionnons ce qui suit :—

Loi d'Organisation de la Dobrugia.

Chapitre I.—*Du Territoire de la Dobrugia.*

Article 1er. La Dobrugia annexée à la Roumanie par le Traité de Berlin, avec le Delta du Danube et l'Ile des Serpents, est provisoirement divisée en deux districts.

Art. 2. Ces districts se subdivisent en arrondissements, et ces arrondissements en communes, urbaines et rurales.

Chapitre II.—*Des Droits des Habitants de la Dobrugia.*

Art. 3. Tous les habitants de la Dobrugia qui, à la date du 11 Avril, 1877, étaient citoyens Ottomans, deviennent et sont citoyens Roumains.

Art. 4. Une loi spéciale déterminera les conditions auxquelles ils pourront exercer leurs droits politiques et acheter des immeubles ruraux dans la Roumanie proprement dite. Une autre loi statuera sur la représentation des habitants de la Dobrugia au sein du Parlement Roumain.

Art. 5. Les habitants de la Dobrugia, devenus citoyens Roumains, sont égaux devant la loi, jouissent de tous les droits civiques, et peuvent être nommés aux fonctions de la province, sans distinction d'origine et de religion.

Art. 6. Les habitants de la Dobrugia, jusqu'à la promulgation des lois prévues à l'Article 4 ci-dessus, jouissent dès à présent des droits civiques compris aux Articles 5, 23, 26, et 28 de la Constitution Roumaine. Mais le Gouvernement, par Décret Princier, rendu sur délibération du Conseil des Ministres, peut interdire les réunions dangereuses pour l'ordre public.

Art. 7. Les institutions représentatives, départementales, et communales sont introduites dans la Dobrugia, sur le modèle des institutions en vigueur en Roumanie, et sans autres différences que celles prévues par le présente loi.

Art. 8. Les habitants de la Dobrugia ne peuvent être poursuivis ou arrêtés que dans les cas prévus par la loi. Ils ne peuvent être soustraits aux Juges auxquels la loi les défère.

Art. 9. Tous les étrangers qui se trouvent sur le territoire de la Dobrugia jouissent de la protection donnée par la loi aux personnes et à leurs biens. Mais le Gouvernement peut prendre contre les étrangers perturbateurs les mesures que réclamerait l'intérêt de l'ordre public.

Les étrangers ne pourront établir leur domicile dans la Dobrugia sans l'autorisation de l'Administration.

Art. 10. Ne peuvent être appliquées dans la Dobrugia d'autres peines que celles prévues par les lois Roumaines.

Art. 11. Jusqu'à réglementation définitive de la propriété et de la possession immobilières dans la Dobrugia, cette propriété et cette possession s'acquièrent, se conservent, se transmettent, et se perdent conformément aux lois Ottomanes en vigueur jusqu'au 11 Avril, 1877. Le Gouvernement Roumain a tous les droits et attributions qu'avait à cet égard le Gouvernement Ottoman. Un Règlement d'administration publique déterminera ces attributions et droits.

Art. 12. La dîme est abolie à perpétuité dans la Dobrugia; elle sera remplacée par une redevance pécuniaire annuelle qui sera déterminée par une loi spéciale.

Art. 13. Seuls les habitants qui se trouvaient dans la Dobrugia à la date du 11 Avril, 1877, et tenant des droits des lois Ottomanes, et les Roumains, ainsi que ceux qui tiennent des droits de l'Article 7 de la Constitution Roumaine, peuvent acheter des immeubles ruraux dans la Dobrugia.

Cette stipulation laisse indépendante la loi qui aura pour objet l'établissement de colonies agricoles sur les domaines de l'Etat dans la Dobrugia.

Art. 14. Les lois d'expropriation pour cause d'utilité publique sont applicables dans la Dobrugia.

Art. 15. La liberté de conscience est absolue. La liberté de tous les cultes est garantie, en tant que leur célébration ne portera pas atteinte à l'ordre public ou aux bonnes mœurs.

Art. 16. La religion Orthodoxe de l'Orient est également la religion dominante dans la Dobrugia. Les deux districts de la Dobrugia font partie du diocèse (Eparchie) du Bas-Danube.

Les archiprêtres et le clergé Orthodoxe des cathedrales de Tulcea et de Constance (Kustendje) sont salariés par l'état.

Le clergé des autres églises Orthodoxes est payé par les communes et communautés, sur la base d'un Règlement d'administration publique qui sera promulgué par Décret Princier.

Art. 17. Le personnel et l'entretien des principales mosquées Musulmanes de Tulcea, Constance, Babadagh, Macin, Medgidie, Hirsova, Isaccea, Sulina, et Mangalia, seront payés par l'Etat, sur la base d'un Règlement d'administration publique promulgué par Décret Princier.

Art. 18. Le clergé des autres confessions et l'entretien de leurs temples et églises seront à la charge des communautés afférentes.

Nul ne sera obligé de contribuer à l'entretien d'un culte auquel il n'appartient pas.

Art. 19. L'instruction dans les écoles rétribuées par l'Etat ou les communes est gratuite.

Art. 20. L'enseignement est libre pour autant que, dans son exercice, nulle atteinte n'est portée aux bonnes mœurs, à l'ordre public, et à l'hygiène des enfants.

Seront créées graduellement des écoles primaires dans toutes les communes de la Dobrugia.

Pleine liberté est accordée aux différentes communautés et aux particuliers d'ouvrir des écoles, sous le contrôle du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique, et à condition que, dans chacune de ces écoles, à côté de la langue choisie par les fondateurs ou les directeurs, l'enseignement de la langue Roumaine sont obligatoire.

Un Règlement d'administration publique statuera sur tout ce qui concerne l'enseignement public et privé dans la Dobrugia.

Art. 21. Sera créé dans la ville de Babadagh un séminaire Musulman destiné à former les desservants des mosquées, et à enseigner les principes de la législation religieuse Musulmane. Cette école sera entretenue par l'Etat.

Art. 22. Les Actes de l'Etat Civil relèvent des autorités civiles.

Ces Actes devront toujours être dressés préalablement à la bénédiction religieuse qui, en matière de mariage, sera obligatoire.

Toutefois, un Règlement d'administration publique établira les exceptions et modifications qui peuvent être apportées à ce principe, à l'égard des Musulmans et des Lipovans.

Art. 23. Tous les habitants de la Dobrugia ont le droit de s'adresser aux autorités

publiques par pétitions signées d'une ou de plusieurs personnes, mais les pétitionnaires ne peuvent pétitionner qu'en leur nom propre.

Toutefois, les signataires de pétitions contenant des injures contre l'Etat Roumain ou les autorités publiques sont passibles de ce chef des pénalités prévues par les lois.

Art. 24. Nul habitant de la Dobrugia, devenu citoyen Roumain, ne peut, sans autorisation du Gouvernement, entrer au service d'un étranger, sans perdre *ipso facto* ses droits civiques.

Aux habitants de la Dobrugia qui, lors de la promulgation de la présente loi, occuperaient une fonction publique dans un Etat étranger, est accordé au terme d'un an pour demander au Gouvernement Roumain l'autorisation de garder leur fonction. S'ils n'obtiennent pat cette autorisation, ils seront considérés comme étrangers, sans préjudice des peines prévues dans le Code Pénal contre les citoyens Roumains de la Dobrugia qui porteraint les armes contre la Roumanie.

Chapitre III.—*De l'Administration de la Dobrugia.*

Art. 25. La Drobugia est divisée en deux districts : Tulcea et Constanee.

Le district de Tulcea se compose de quatre arrondissements, à savoir : Tulcea, Macin, Babadagh, et Sulina avec l'Ile des Serpents.

Le district de Constanee comprend cinq arrondissements, à savoir : Constanee, Mungalia, Hirsova, Medgidie, et Nouvelle-Silistric.

Art. 26. Chaque district est administré par un préfet, qui a les mêmes attributions que ses collègues de la Roumanie proprement dite.

A la tête de chaque arrondissement est placé un Administrateur.

A la tête de chaque commune urbaine ou rurale est placé un maire, assisté d'un Conseil Communal.

Art. 27. Le préfet et les Administrateurs sont nommés par le Prince, sur la proposition du Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Le préfet est placé sous les ordres immédiats du Ministre de l'Intérieur, mais il est aussi le représentant des autres Ministres et exécute leurs ordres.

Art. 28. Le préfet surveille la marche de tous les services publics de son district, sauf la Justice et l'Armée. Il s'occupe des droits, des devoirs, et des intérêts de tous les habitants du district, poursuit et fait poursuivre les abus et les violations de la loi, et prend toutes les mesures nécessaires au maintien de l'ordre public.

Art. 29. Il a pouvoir d'édicter des règlements explicatifs, auxquels tous les agents administratifs, districtuels et communaux, doivent soumission.

Il rend des Ordonnances en matière d'ordre public.

Art. 30. Le préfet dispose, dans la limite des lois, de la force publique.

Sa réquisition, provoquée dans l'intérêt du maintien de l'ordre public, recevra immédiatement satisfaction de la part du Commandant des troupes qui se trouvent dans son district.

Art. 31. Le préfet représente le Gouvernement auprès du Conseil du District, et tant vis-à-vis de ce Conseil que vis-à-vis des Conseils Communaux, il a tous les droits que la loi accorde aux préfets de la Roumanie proprement dite.

Art. 32. Les Administrateurs ont, dans leur arrondissement, la même compétence, les mêmes devoirs que les sous-préfets du reste du pays.

Ils sont placés sous les ordres directs du préfet, et ont, dans leur arrondissement, délégation de ses pouvoirs, dans les limites de la loi.

Art. 33. Les maires des communes urbaines et rurales, dans chaque circonscription, à l'exception des maires des villes chefs-lieu de préfecture, sont placés sous les ordres des Administrateurs.

Les Administrateurs peuvent suspendre les maires ; mais cette mesure doit être confirmée par le préfet.

Art. 34. Les attributions et les devoirs des fonctionnaires de police sont les mêmes qu'en Roumanie.

Art. 35. Il ne peut être exercé de poursuites judiciaires contre le préfet, pour infractions commises dans l'exercice de ses fonctions, que sur autorisation préalable du Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Les Administrateurs, les fonctionnaires de police, et les maires de communes urbaines ne peuvent, pour ces mêmes infractions, être poursuivis que sur autorisation préalable du Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Pour les infractions commises en dehors de l'exercice de leurs fonctions, les fonctionnaires de tout rang seront poursuivis conformément au droit commun.

Chapitre IV.—*Des Institutions Districtuelles et Communales.*

Art. 36. Dans chaque district est institué un Conseil Districtuel, doté des mêmes attributions qu'en Roumanie.

A moins de stipulations contraires de la présente loi, les lois générales du pays à cet égard sont applicables à la Dobrugia.

Art. 37. Le Conseil Général se compose de douze membres, parmi lesquels le Gouvernement a le droit de nommer un Président, pour chaque session annuelle.

Art. 38. Les membres du Conseil Districtuel sont élus par les délégués des Conseils Communaux du district, deux par commune rurale, et trois par commune urbaine.

Outre ces délégués, sont de droit électeurs pour le Conseil Districtuel les plus forts contribuables des communes, à savoir un par commune rurale, et deux par commune urbaine.

Art. 39. Ces délégués de chaque arrondissement se réunissent au chef-lieu d'arrondissement, au jour fixé par le Gouvernement, et élisent deux membres au Conseil Districtuel.

Art. 40. Dans le District de Tulcea, le préfet, sur une liste de douze personnes, citoyens Roumains, recommandés par le Conseil Communal, nomme quatre membres au Conseil Districtuel.

Ces quatre membres et les huit membres élus par les délégués des communes forment le *plenum* du Conseil Districtuel.

Dans le district de Constanee, le préfet choisit, sur une liste du douze personnes, dressée par le Conseil Communal de Constanee, deux membres qui, réunis aux dix autres membres élus par les délégués des communes, forment le *plenum* du Conseil Districtuel de Constanee.

Art. 41. Les revenus des Conseils Districtuels sont les mêmes que ceux des Conseils Districtuels de Roumanie.

Si ces revenus sont insuffisants pour couvrir les dépenses, le Conseil Districtuel peut en créer d'autres, qui, pour être perçus, doivent être approuvés par le Gouvernement pendant les trois premières années qui suivront la formation des Conseils Districtuels dans la Dobrugia. Après ces trois années, l'approbation devra émaner du pouvoir législatif.

Art. 42. La compétence des Conseils Districtuels est limitée aux questions qui concernent leur district respectif. Toutefois, à la fin de chaque session ordinaire, les Conseils Districtuels ont le droit d'adresser au Prince, par une députation *ad hoc*, l'exposé des besoins, améliorations, et griefs de leurs districts.

Cette faculté est accordée aux Conseils Districtuels de la Dobrugia jusqu'au jour où la représentation de la Dobrugia dans le sein du Parlement Roumain sera organisée.

Art. 43. Aucune décision du Conseil Districtuel ne pourra être mise à exécution que moyennant approbation préalable du préfet.

Art. 44. Les attributions et fonctions du Comité Permanent seront remplies par le préfet.

Art. 45. Les lois et règlements communaux de la Roumanie sont également applicables dans la Dobrugia, sauf les modifications comprises dans la Loi Organique actuelle.

Art. 46. Sont communes urbaines :—

Tulcea, Constance, Babadagh, Sulina, Macin, Hirsova, Medgidie, Cernavoda, Mangalia, Vieux-Killia, Ostrov (Nouvelle-Silistric), Mahmudie, Kusgun, et Isaccea.

Art. 47. Chaque commune, soit urbaine, soit rurale, est administrée par un Conseil Communal dans le sein duquel le Ministre de l'Intérieur, pour les communes urbaines, et le préfet, pour les communes rurales, nomment un maire révocable.

Art. 48. Le nombre des Conseillers Communaux dans les communes de Tulcea et de Constance est de neuf, dont trois nommés par le préfet, parmi les notables, dans les autres communes urbaines et rurales de sept, dont deux nommés par le préfet.

Art. 49. Une agglomération d'habitants ne peut constituer une commune, si elle ne compte un minimum de 100 familles.

Les hameaux où ce nombre ne sera pas atteint seront rattachés à d'autres, pour former un nombre minimum de 100 familles, et constituer ainsi une commune.

Si les habitants d'un village comptant moins de 100 familles déclarent vouloir porter les charges communales, ce village peut également être érigé en commune.

Art. 50. Sont électeurs et éligibles, dans les communes urbaines, tous les habitants, citoyens du pays, qui paient annuellement à l'Etat une contribution directe soit foncière, soit à titre de patente ou de taxe pour les ponts et chaussées, de 30 fr. minimum.

Art. 51. Sont électeurs et éligibles dans les communes rurales, les habitants des communes, citoyens du pays, qui paient à l'Etat un impôt annuel de 18 fr.

Art. 52. Dans les communes urbaines, les élections au Conseil sont présidées par un délégué du préfet, assisté de quatre personnes désignées par les électeurs présents à 10 heures du matin. Dans les villes de Constance et de Tulcea, le collége électoral sera présidé par le Président du Tribunal, ou, s'il est empêché, par un membre.

Dans les communes rurales, les élections sont présidées par le doyen d'âge des électeurs, assisté de deux membres choisis par les électeurs présents.

Les électeurs votent par bulletin secret.

Le secrétaire de la mairie constate le résultat des élections par un procès-verbal investi de la signature et du sceau du bureau et des électeurs présents.

Art. 53. Le préfet, s'il juge cette mesure conforme aux intérêts locaux, peut, dans les communes à population mixte, fixer le nombre des Conseillers que chaque confession ou groupe d'habitants d'origines diverses aura à élire.

Art. 54. Les revenus des communes sont ceux établis par les lois Roumaines.

Dans les communes Mahométanes où l'absence de débits de spiritueux rendrait insuffisant le montant des revenus, le Conseil Communal, moyennant approbation du Conseil Districtuel et sanction Princière, peut créer d'autres revenus analogues.

Trois ans après l'institution des Conseils Districtuels, les augmentations des impôts alors existants devront être approuvées par le pouvoir législatif.

Art. 55. Les budgets des communes urbaines et rurales sont soumis à l'approbation du préfet.

Art. 56. Les budgets des communes urbaines ne peuvent entrer en vigueur qu'après approbation du Ministre de l'Intérieur.

Chapitre V.—*Du Pouvoir Judiciaire.*

Art. 57. Les Tribunaux ordinaires et les lois civiles et criminelles de la Roumanie sont introduits dans la Dobrugia avec les seules modifications prévues par la présente loi et par les Décrets Princiers, rendus en vertu de cette loi, en considération des circonstances locales, et seulement en ce qui concerne l'application de l'Article 61 ci-dessous.

Art. 58. Il est institué une Justice d'arrondissement dans chacune des circonscriptions administratives de la Dobrugia.

Art. 59. Dans chacune des villes de Tulcea et de Constance est institué un Tribunal de Première Instance.

Art. 60. Dans la ville de Constance est instituée une Cour d'Appel.

Une loi spéciale déterminera l'organisation et les attributions de cette Cour; jusque-là sera maintenu l'état de choses actuel.

Art. 61. Sont institués des Tribunaux Musulmans spéciaux pour les procès des Mahométans en matière de mariage et de succession. Ces Tribunaux à cet égard jugeront conformément aux lois et usages des Mahométans.

Art. 62. L'institution du jury est, jusqu'à nouvelle disposition, suspendue dans la Dobrugia. Les procès criminels et pour délits politiques et de presse seront jugés par les Tribunaux ordinaires.

Art. 63. Les Commissions et Tribunaux extraordinaires, sauf ceux prévus par la présente loi, ne peuvent être introduits dans la Dobrugia, à moins d'une déclaration d'état de siége.

Chapitre VI.—*Des Finances.*

Art. 64. Les impôts et lois financières de la Roumanie sont introduits dans la Dobrugia.

Art. 65. L'application graduelle des lois d'impôt sera faite, en vertu de décrets Princiers, par le Gouvernement, auquel est réservée la faculté d'apprécier le moment opportun à cet égard.

Art. 66. Les Articles 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, et 117 de la Constitution Roumaine entrent dès maintenant en vigueur dans la Dobrugia.

Chapitre VII.—*De la Force Armée.*

Art 67. Dans la Dobrugia, pendant dix ans, à partir de la promulgation de la présente Loi, il ne sera pas procédé au recrutement pour l'armée de ligne. Cette disposition n'est pas applicable aux enrôlements volontaires.

Pendant cette période de dix ans, les habitants de la Dobrugia formeront seulement un corps d'armée territoriale ("calarasi et dorobantz") destiné au service intérieur de cette partie de la Roumanie.

En temps normal, les habitants qui feront partie de ce corps ne pourront être employés au service qu'une semaine par mois. Pendant cette période, ils seront soldés et nourris conformément à la loi de l'armée territoriale.

Ce corps ne pourra être employé hors de la Dobrugia qu'en temps de guerre.

Art. 68. Les habitants de la Dobrugia de religion Musulmane formeront des compagnies et des escadrons séparés. Seront conservés dans leur uniforme, qui sera payé par l'Etat, le fez et le turban.

Les habitants riverains du Danube et de la Mer-Noire seront employés de préférence au service de la flotille destinée à faciliter les communications pour les besoins administratifs et militaires de la Dobrugia.

Le principe de la formation du corps séparé pour les habitants Musulmans sera également maintenu dans la flotille.

Chapitre VIII.—*Dispositions Générales.*

Art. 69. Les couleurs de la Dobrugia sont celles de la Roumanie.

Art. 70. Les armes de la Dobrugia en général et du district de Tulcea en particulier sont un écusson portant deux dauphins le corps relevé.

Les armes du district de Constance sont un écusson portant une galère Roumaine.

Art. 71. Nul ne sera obligé de prêter serment que conformément à sa religion.

Art. 72. Aucune loi, aucun Règlement d'administration générale, districtuelle, ou communale, ne pourra devenir obligatoire qu'après publication dans les formes requises par la loi.

Chapitre IX.—*Dispositions Transitoires.*

Art. 73. Un terme de trois ans, à dater du 23 Octobre, 1878, est accordé pour revenir dans leurs foyers aux habitants ruraux de la Dobrugia, qui, au temps de la guerre, ont émigré de la province.

Ceux qui ne bénéficieront pas de ce terme perdront tout droit sur la possession des terres rurales qu'ils possédaient avant la guerre.

Art. 74. Les aliénations faites contrairement aux dispositions des Article 11 et 73 de la présente loi sont et restent nulles et sans effet.

Art. 75. Une loi spéciale organisera le service des écrivains ("notari") dans les communes rurales, jusqu'à l'époque où les communes auront des moyens matériels et intellectuels suffisants pour pouvoir par elles-mêmes organiser et rétribuer ce service d'une manière satisfaisante.

Art. 76. Une loi organisera le service des mosquées et l'enseignement religieux de la population Musulmane.

Art. 77. L'armée territoriale ne sera instituée dans la Dobrugia qu'après promulgation de la loi qui réglementera la propriété rurale.

Art. 78. La loi pour l'introduction de l'impôt foncier et de la redevance pour les ponts et chaussées ne sera appliquée qu'à partir du 1er Janvier, 1881. Pour l'année 1880, au lieu de ces impôts, il sera perçu une redevance sur les bestiaux, aux termes d'un Règlement qui sera décrété par le Ministre des Finances.

Art. 79. Dans le plus bref délai possible, une loi réglera le service du desséchement des marais et des plantations de forêts dans la Dobrugia.

Art. 80. A dater de la mise en vigueur de la présente loi, sont abrogés tous Décrets, Règlements, et autres actes contraires à ses dispositions.

Cette loi a été votée par la Chambre des Députés, dans la séance du 12 Février, 1880, et adoptée avec une majorité de cinquante-huit votes, contre cinq et deux abstentions.

Le Vice-Président,
(L.S.A.D.) JEAN AGARICI.
Le Secrétaire,
E. CHRISTOFOREANO.

Cette loi a été votée par le Sénat, dans la séance du 4 Mars, 1880, et adoptée avec une majorité de 28 votes, contre 5.

Le Vice-Président,
(L.S.S.) N. BIBESCO.
Le Secrétaire,
D. PISCA.

Nous promulguons cette loi et nous ordonnons qu'elle soit investie du sceau de l'Etat et publié dans le "Moniteur Officiel."

Dônné à Bucarest, le 7 Mars, 1880.

(L.S.St.) CHARLES.

(Signé) M. KOGALNICEANO, *Ministre de l'Intérieur, et par intérim Président du Conseil des Ministres.*
B. BOERESCO, *Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et par intérim des Cultes et de l'Instruction Publique.*
I. CAMPINEANO, *Ministre des Finances.*
D. LECCA, *Ministre de la Guerre, et par intérim de l'Agriculture, du Commerce, et des Travaux Publics.*
A. STOLOJAN, *Ministre de la Justice.*

Les Articles 5, 23, 26, et 28, 109, 110, 111, 112, 113, 114, 115, 116, et 117 de la Constitution, auxquels se réfèrent les Articles 6, 13, et 66 de la loi ci-dessus, portent :

Art. 5. Les Roumains jouissent de la liberté de conscience, de la liberté d'enseignement, de la liberté de la presse, et de la liberté de réunion.

Art. 23. L'enseignement est libre. La liberté de l'enseignement est garantie, pour autant que dans son exercice aucune atteinte ne soit portée aux bonnes mœurs et à l'ordre public.

Art. 26. Les Roumains ont le droit de se réunir paisiblement et sans armes, en se conformant aux lois qui règlent l'exercice de ce droit, pour traiter toute sorte de questions. Dans ces conditions il n'est pas besoin d'autorisation préalable.

Sont exceptées de cette disposition les réunions en plein air, qui sont entièrement soumises aux lois de police.

Art. 28. Chacun a le droit de s'adresser aux autorités publiques par pétitions signées d'une ou de plusieurs personnes, mais les pétitions ne peuvent valoir qu'au nom des signataires.

Seules les autorités constituées ont le droit d'adresser des pétitions en nom collectif.

Art. 7. La différence de croyances religieuses et de confessions ne constitue pas en Roumanie un empêchement à l'acquisition et à l'exercice des droits civils et politiques.

Section 1re. Tout étranger, sans distinction de religion, qu'il soit ou non soumis à une protection étrangère, peut obtenir la naturalisation aux conditions suivantes :

(*a.*) Il adressera au Gouvernement une demande de naturalisation portant indication du capital qu'il possède, de la profession ou du métier qu'il exerce, et de sa volonté d'établir son domicile en Roumanie.

(*b.*) A dater de cette demande, il domiciliera pendant dix ans dans le pays et prouvera par ses actes qu'il lui est utile.

Section 2. Peuvent être dispensés du stage :

(*a.*) Ceux qui auront introduit en Roumanie des industries ou des inventions utiles, ceux qui auront des talents distingués, ou ceux qui auront fondé dans le pays de grands établissements de commerce ou d'industrie.

(*b.*) Ceux qui, nés et élevés en Roumanie de parents y établis, n'ont jamais joui, non plus que leurs parents, d'une protection étrangère.

(*c.*) Ceux qui ont servi sous les drapeaux pendant la guerre de l'Indépendance ; ils pourront être naturalisés collectivement sur la proposition du Gouvernement, par une seule et même loi, et sans autres formalités.

Section 3. La naturalisation ne peut être accordée qu'individuellement et en vertu d'une loi.

Section 4. Une loi speciale déterminera le mode selon lequel les étrangers pourront établir leur domicile sur le territoire Roumain.

Section 5. Ne peuvent acquérir des immeubles ruraux en Roumanie que les Roumains ou ceux qui sont naturalisés Roumains.

Les droits acquis jusqu'à ce jour seront respectés.

Les Conventions Internationales existantes restent en vigueur avec toutes les clauses et délais qui y sont stipulés.

Art. 109. Aucun impôt de l'Etat ne peut être établi qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Art. 110. Aucune charge, aucun impôt districtuel ne peut être établi qu'avec l'approbation du Conseil Districtuel.

Les impôts votés par les Conseils Districtuels et Communaux doivent recevoir la confirmation du pouvoir législatif et la sanction du Prince.

Art. 111. Ne peut être établi aucun privilége en matière d'impôt.

Aucune exception ou diminution d'impôt ne peut être établie que par une loi.

Art. 112. Aucun fonds pour pensions ou gratifications à la charge du Trésor public ne peut être accordé qu'en vertu d'une loi.

Art. 113. Annuellement la Chambre des Députés clôt l'exercice et vote le budget.

Tous les revenus et dépenses de l'Etat doivent être passés dans le budget et dans l'exercice.

Le budget sera toujours présenté un an avant sa mise en application, à la Chambre des Députés, et ne deviendra définitif qu'après avoir été voté par elle et sanctionné par le Prince.

Si le budget n'est pas voté en temps utile, le pouvoir exécutif pourvoira aux services publics sur la base du budget de l'année précédente, sans pouvoir prolonger le nouvel exercice de ce budget plus d'un an au delà de l'année pour laquelle il a été voté.

Art. 114. Le Règlement définitif des comptes doit être présenté à l'Assemblée au plus tard dans le délai de deux ans à dater de la clôture de chaque exercice.

Art. 115. Les lois de finances sont publiées au "Moniteur Officiel," comme les autres lois et Règlements d'administration publique.

Art. 116. Il n'y a qu'une seule Cour des Comptes pour toute la Roumanie.

Art. 117. Les différents fonds qui proviennent jusqu'à ce jour des Caisses spéciales et dont le Gouvernement dispose à divers titres, doivent être compris dans le budget général du service de l'Etat.

No. 54.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 203.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 20, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Maritza," giving a summary of the proceedings at the two last sittings of the Extraordinary Session of the Provincial Assembly, and an account of the closing of that Session by the Governor-General on the 17th instant.

I also inclose the French text of his Excellency's Address on that occasion.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 54.

Extract from the "Maritza" of April $\frac{8}{20}$, 1880.

DANS la séance de Vendredi, $\frac{2}{14}$ courant, l'Assemblée Provinciale a fini la discussion du Budget. En votant le budget de la milice, elle a fixé l'effectif des compagnies à 208 par compagnie présente. Elle a ensuite abordé la discussion de la loi financière qui a été adoptée, sauf quelques modifications, dont nos lecteurs se rendront compte en comparant le texte de la loi que nous publions plus loin avec le texte du projet de loi que nous avons publié dans notre numéro du $\frac{14}{26}$ Mars.

Dans la même séance la Chambre a adopté une résolution, proposée par M. Caltchoff, recommandant au Gouvernement de renvoyer devant le Tribunal compétent l'affaire du contrat pour la dîme de Slimnia, dans laquelle le Sous-Directeur des Finances est accusé d'avoir fait insérer une clause qui ne figure pas dans les autres contrats.

Samedi, le $\frac{3}{15}$ courant, la Chambre a élu trois membres titulaires et un membre suppléant pour remplacer les membres qui avaient donné leur démission du Comité Permanent. Ont été nommés membres titulaires : MM. Béneff, J. S. Guéchoff et Naïdenoff, et membre suppléant : Ismaïl Effendi. La Chambre a ensuite adopté une résolution proposée par M. le Dr. Dagoroff recommandant au Gouvernement de faire quelques changements dans la composition actuelle de l'Etat-Major de la milice.

A midi précis la clôture de la Session Extraordinaire a eu lieu avec le cérémonial usité. Le Gouverneur-Général, qui portait l'uniforme de Général, et était accompagné de tout l'Etat-Major et des officiers qui se trouvent à Philippopoli, a été acclamé par toute l'Assemblée. Le discours a été en Bulgare, Turc, et Grec, par M. Groueff, Directeur de l'Instruction Publique, et a été très-applaudi.

Inclosure 2 in No. 54.

Extract from the "Maritza" of April $\frac{5}{20}$, 1880.

Traduction du Discours prononcé par Son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général de la Roumélie Orientale le $\frac{5}{17}$ Avril, 1880, *à la clôture de la Session Extraordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale.*

MM. les Députés,

CONVOQUÉS en Session Extraordinaire pour étudier et pour voter quelques projets de loi d'une utilité pressante, vous avez par un travail incessant réussi à accomplir votre mission de la façon la plus satisfaisante, malgré le court espace de temps mis à votre disposition.

Voyant donc justifiées les espérances que je plaçais dans votre sagesse et dans votre expérience, je viens vous remercier cordialement pour l'assistance patriotique que vous avez prêtée au Gouvernement spécialement dans la tâche difficile de fixer pour la présente année financière un Budget régulier appelé à faciliter considérablement la bonne marche de l'Administration, au grand avantage de la province.

Je ne vous remercie pas moins pour le vote de loi autorisant l'emprunt destiné à venir en aide à l'agriculture.

Quoique diminué dans son montant, cet emprunt ne servira pas peu à satisfaire, dans la mesure du possible, les besoins des agriculteurs.

Quant aux projets de loi dont la discussion n'a pas été abordée et entre autres le projet du chemin de fer de Bourgas à Yamboli, j'espère qu'après avoir été mieux étudiés ils passeront définitivement dans la prochaine session ordinaire.

Messieurs les Députés,

En déclarant close la présente Session Extraordinaire de l'Assemblée Provinciale, je suis heureux d'être en droit de croire qu'à votre retour dans vos foyers, vous serez devant le peuple les interprètes fidèles des vœux et des intentions sincères dont je suis animé à l'endroit de la prospérité et du bien-être de notre chère patrie.

No. 55.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 4.)

(No. 204.) *Philippopoli, April* 20, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my telegram, *en clair*, No. 62 of the 18th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the translation of a petition which has been addressed to me by the representatives of the Mussulman village of Trifil, in this immediate neighbourhood, relating the circumstances under which their village was attacked during the night of the 16-17th instant by a large body of armed Bulgarians.

I have also the honour to inclose the copy of a deposition which the same men made before me, and from which it appears that the village of Trifil had been attacked in a similar manner on six previous occasions. One of these attacks is described in a petition which I inclosed to your Lordship in my despatch No. 297 of the 11th October last.

The inclosed extract from the "Philippopolis" refers to further acts of violence to which Mussulmans in this department have recently been subjected.

From the comparatively small number of casualties that have resulted from armed attacks on Mussulman villages, and from the fact that in some cases small shot and even blank cartridges have been used by the assailants, I infer that the real object of these nocturnal attacks on Mussulman villages is intimidation rather than murder.

The acts of incendiarism which I have so frequently reported to your Lordship are probably attributable, in a great measure, to the same motive.

The object is probably to frighten the Mussulmans out of the province, and to prevent the return of any further Mussulman proprietors of lands now held by Bulgarians.

The same object is pursued on a still larger scale and under circumstances of still greater atrocity in the neighbouring Principality.

Some alarm at the possible consequences of such a course is manifested in the last issue of the "Narodni Glas," the organ of the National party and of the Gymnastic Societies; but the effect of the admonitions which it conveys is considerably marred by the expression of a suspicion that the recent massacre of five Mussulmans at Tasla is

probably the work, not of Bulgarians, but of their arch enemies the Greeks, who thereby wish to discredit the Bulgarian population in the eyes of Europe.

It is scarcely necessary for me to observe that it is only the Bulgarian section of the population which has been armed in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 55.

Petition.

(Traduction.)

NOUS Soussignés, habitants Musulmans du village de Trifil, district de Conouche, relevant du département de Philippopoli, avons l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence ce qui suit :

Nous demeurons dans des huttes ; depuis l'hiver on a attaqué sept fois notre village, et nous n'avons plus de tranquillité, les villages Bulgares dans les environs sont Ragouche et Doubandji-Elias.

Samedi passé nous l'avons échappé belle. Si ce n'était pour le gendarme du village nous serions presque tous perdus. Pendant deux heures plus de 100 coups de fusils ont été tirés ; cela ressemblait à une bataille.

Pendant une attaque antérieure le nommé Hadji-Hafuz, un de nos villageois, tout en étant dérobé d'une somme de 1,500 piastres, a été tellement battu qu'il est mort un mois après.

Dans le cas où il n'y aurait pas de possibilité de nous assurer la sécurité, que l'on nous paie ce qui nous est dû et nous irons habiter dans un autre village.

Espérant d'être honoré d'une réponse favorable, veuillez agréer, &c.

(Signé) Cachet du Village.
NÉMAN, le Représentant des Villageois.

Le $\frac{8}{20}$ Avril, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 55.

Deposition of Sadik Oglou Suleïman and Moukhtar Mustapha.

SADIK OGLOU SULEÏMAN and Moukhtar Mustapha, of the village of Trifil (220 souls), deposed as follows:—

"During the night of the 16-17th April a great number of Bulgarians, armed with rifles, entered the village and summoned the inmates of one of the kolibas (huts) occupied by the brother of Sadik Oglou Suleïman to give up his money. On his refusing to do so, two shots were fired at the door: one pierced the door, and the other went through the koliba, but without hurting anybody inside. The Bulgarians then fired at some of the Mussulmans who rushed out of their huts, but also without hurting them. The Mussulman gendarme fired two shots at them. A Roman Catholic Bulgarian, employed in watching the Mussulmans' fields, came likewise to the rescue, firing off his pistol. Neither of them had any more ammunition. The Bulgarians then fired at any man they could see in the dark and at the kolibas. About 80 or 100 shots were discharged. They continued firing for two hours. A boy called Hassan was apparently known to the Bulgars, for they called him by name to lie down in his hut, as no harm would come to him, they only wanting money. When the Bulgarians occupied the village, the Mussulmans armed themselves with sticks and spades; the Bulgars, however, continued firing, but at last retired, probably because they had no more ammunition. Suleïman produced an empty Krinka cartridge, picked up after the assailants left. The deponents do not know from whence the Bulgars came. This village is surrounded by Bulgarian villages. This is the seventh time since October (?) last that the village has been attacked in a similar manner. Nobody was ever killed, but one man was beaten and died afterwards. Next day the villagers complained to the authorities at Philippopoli, who sent another gendarme (a Bulgar) to the village, and also sent twenty cartridges to the Mussulman gendarme."

Philippopoli, April 18, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 55.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of April $\frac{8}{20}$, 1880.

A SELDJOVA les Bulgares mirent le feu à la cabane qui servait de logement à Hussein Kara Omer Oglou, et intimèrent aux habitants Musulmans de quitter ce village parce que leur présence, disaient-ils, y était désagréable. Cet ordre péremptoire ils l'accompagnèrent par quelques coups de feu tirés en l'air. Les Musulmans se sont adressés au Gouvernement Central pour se plaindre de leurs compatriotes Bulgares, et tout particulièrement du frère du Pope de Seldjova. Comme on a fait la sourde oreille à leurs plaintes, ils ont été obligés de quitter leur village. Ils sont, avec leurs femmes et enfants, rentrés tous dans notre ville.

Les Bulgares habitant le village Rahmanli, canton Karadja Dagh, se rendirent le 27 Mars à Tourkemenli, village sis dans le même canton et exclusivement habité par des Musulmans. Ils y mirent le feu à neuf maisons et commirent plusieurs pillages. Les Musulmans vinrent dans notre ville et s'adressèrent au Consulat-Général d'Angleterre pour le prier de leur venir en aide de réparer leurs ruines.

Ils ont reçu un subside de 10 livres. Néanmoins, les Bulgares de Rahmanli ne cessent de les attaquer, de les piller, et de leur enlever leurs instruments aratoires et leurs bêtes de labour.

Keuceli, Mahmoudlar, Mousli, Tchali, Sari Demirdji, Assi Karalar, et Yabouk sont tous des villages Musulmans sis dans le Canton de Karadja Dagh. Les maisons sont occupées par des Bulgares; pour les propriétaires, eux sont logés dans les écuries et étables où les Bulgares gardent leur bétail. Les Musulmans sont au désespoir; ils ne trouvent rien à faire pour gagner leur pain. Quelques-uns ont vendu à vil prix une partie de leur propriété pour s'acheter des bêtes de labour. Les Bulgares ont volé ces bêtes. Les Musulmans se préparent à abandonner ces villages.

A Tchoba, village Musulman, un Bulgare a enlevé Zelha, fille de Moustafa Abdoglou, et l'a emmenée à Tchoba, village Bulgare du même nom. Là il lui a déchiré son feredjé et yahsmak et a assouvi sur sa personne ses passions brutales. Les parents de la victime se rendirent au chef-lieu du canton pour se plaindre de l'enlèvement de leur fille. A leurs plaintes le Chef du canton répondit en haussant les épaules. Zelha reste à Tchoba faisant le désespoir de ses parents et attendant le moment de sa délivrance.

No. 56.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 205.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 20, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 194 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the reply which I have this day received to the letter which I addressed to the Governor-General on the 14th instant, on the subject principally of the ill-treatment to which Mussulmans and Greeks are subjected in this Province, as well as on that of the continued illegal existence of the Gymnastic Societies.

Aleko Pasha has not taken notice of any of the grave charges which I made against his Administration in my note of the 14th instant, and has confined himself to a reiteration of his belief in the veracity of his Secretary.

As it is evidently useless for me to argue with his Excellency on such grounds, I shall return no answer to his communication, which, at the same time, amounts in reality to a tacit acceptance of the more important statements which I took the opportunity of making to his Excellency, for reasons which I submitted to your Lordship in my above-mentioned despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Aléko Pasha to Mr. Michell.

M. le Consul-Général, *Philippopoli, le $\frac{19}{31}$ Avril*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception du nouveau Mémoire que vous avez bien voulu m'adresser, sur l'affaire d'Egriler, et après l'avoir parcouru, je regrette de vous confesser derechef que, malgré la nouvelle forme dont elles sont revêtues, les allégations et considérations de M. Macasdar, &c., ne sont aucunement de nature à ébranler ma conviction sur la véracité des rapports de mon Secrétaire, M. P. Matthéoff, dont les témoignages me sont aujourd'hui confirmés par de nouveaux renseignements officiels.

Aussi je m'en tiens sur cette affaire aux conclusions que j'ai formulées dans la note que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser le $\frac{11}{23}$ Mars, 1880, et je saisis cette occasion, &c.

(Signé) A. BOGORIDI.

No. 57.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the translation of a "Ballot and Corrupt Practices Prevention Act," passed at the last Session of the Provincial Assembly, and recently sanctioned by His Majesty the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 57.

Extract from the "Maritza."

LE Gouverneur-Général a dernièrement promulgué, au nom de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, six des lois qui avaient été votées par l'Assemblée Provinciale et qui viennent d'être sanctionnées par la Sublime Porte. Ces lois sont: (1) Loi Pénale pour les Crimes et Délits Electoraux; (2) Loi pour l'Indemnité à payer aux Membres du Comité Permanent; (3) Loi pour les Droits Judiciaires; (4) Loi pour l'Institution d'une Seconde Chambre près les Tribunaux de Département; (5) Loi pour l'Impôt sur les Immeubles, et (6) Loi pour l'Impôt sur le Revenu.

Voici la traduction de la première de ces lois:

Article 1er. Toute personne qui se sera fait inscrire sur la liste électorale sous de faux noms ou de fausses qualités, sera punie d'un emprisonnement d'un mois à six mois ou d'une amende de 100 piastres à 500 piastres.

Art. 2. Toute personne qui aura, en se faisant inscrire, dissimulé son incapacité d'électeur, ou aura réclamé et obtenu une inscription sur deux ou plusieurs listes, sera punie d'un emprisonnement de deux mois à un an ou d'une amende de 200 à 1,000 piastres.

Art. 3. Celui qui, ayant perdu ses qualités d'électeur prévues par la loi, après avoir été inscrit sur la liste électorale, aura voté, en vertu de cette inscription, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de quinze jours à trois mois et d'une amende de 50 à 100 piastres.

Art. 4. Toute personne qui, ayant été inscrite sur deux ou plusieurs listes, aura profité de cette inscription multiple ou se sera présenté au lieu de quelque autre électeur pour voter plus d'une fois, sera punie d'un emprisonnement de deux mois à un an et d'une amende de 200 à 1,000 piastres.

Art. 5. Quiconque, étant chargé dans un scrutin de recevoir ou compter les bulletins électoraux, aura soustrait, ajouté, ou altéré quelque bulletin, ou lu un nom autre que celui inscrit, ou détruit quelque bulletin contesté, sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'un an à trois ans, ou d'une amende de 1,000 à 5,000 piastres.

Art. 6. Quiconque, étant chargé par un électeur d'écrire son suffrage, aura inscrit sur le bulletin un nom autre que celui qui lui était désigné par l'électeur, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de six mois à deux ans, ou d'une amende de 500 à 1,500 piastres.

Art. 7. Toute personne qui sera entrée dans l'assemblée électorale avec armes apparentes, sera punie d'un emprisonnement d'une semaine à un mois ou d'une amende de 100

à 500 piastres; celui qui sera entré avec armes cachées, sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'un mois à six mois et d'une amende de 200 à 1,000 piastres.

Art. 8. Quiconque aura donné, promis, ou reçu des deniers ou effets quelconques sous la condition soit de donner ou de procurer un suffrage, soit d'abstenir de voter, sera puni d'un emprisonnement de trois mois à deux ans, ou d'une amende de 500 à 2,000 piastres.

Seront punis de la même peine ceux qui, sous les mêmes conditions, auront fait ou accepté l'offre ou la promesse d'emplois publics ou privés.

Si le coupable est fonctionnaire public, la peine sera du double et le délinquant sera destitué.

Art. 9. Si un fonctionnaire ou employé public force par menaces un électeur à donner son suffrage à un candidat autre que celui pour lequel il voulait voter, ou à s'abstenir de voter, il sera puni d'un emprisonnement de six mois à deux ans, ou d'une amende de 1,000 à 5,000 piastres, et sera destitué.

Art. 10. Lorsque quelque attroupement, par violence ou démonstrations menaçantes, aura interrompu les élections ou aura entravé l'exercice du droit électoral, les coupables seront punis d'un emprisonnement de deux mois à deux ans et d'une amende de 500 à 2,000 piastres.

Art. 11. Toute irruption armée dans un bureau électoral sera punie des travaux forcés.

Art. 12. Toute personne qui pendant l'élection se sera rendue coupable d'outrages, soit envers le bureau, soit envers l'un de ses membres, ou aura dans la salle électorale troublé ou retardé les opérations électorales, sera punie d'un emprisonnement d'un mois à six mois, ou d'une amende de 200 à 1,000 piastres.

Art. 13. Quiconque aura violé ou enlevé l'urne contenant les suffrages émis et non encore dépouillés, sera puni d'un emprisonnement d'un an à trois ans.

Art. 14. Si l'urne est violée par les membres du bureau ou par ceux qui sont préposés à la garde des bulletins, les coupables seront punis d'un emprisonnement de deux ans à cinq ans, et d'une amende de 2,000 à 3,000 piastres.

Art. 15. Tout Président d'un bureau électoral qui aura ouvert les opérations électorales plus tôt ou les aura fermées plus tard qu'à l'heure réglementaire, sera puni d'une amende de 500 à 2,000 piastres.

Art. 16. Toutes les peines en vertu des Articles ci-dessus peuvent entraîner la perte des droits électoraux. Cette interdiction est consignée dans le Jugement ou Arrêt même et ne doit être au-dessous d'un an ni au-dessus de six ans.

Art. 17. Dans tout procès pour les crimes prévus par cette loi, l'une ou l'autre partie peut être condamnée à des dommages-intérêts, si la partie adverse le demande.

Art. 18. Si le coupable est un fonctionnaire public, il est prosécuté sans qu'une autorisation préalable de la part du Gouvernement soit nécessaire.

Art. 19. Les crimes prévus par cette loi seront jugés, d'après la procédure habituelle, en première instance par les Tribunaux Départementaux, Section Criminelle, et en dernier ressort par la Cour Supérieure, Section Criminelle.

Art. 20. Les procès pour les crimes électoraux ont la priorité sur tous les autres procès du Tribunal, devant lequel ils sont portés.

Art. 21. La condamnation, s'il en est prononcé, ne pourra, en aucun cas, avoir pour effet d'annuler l'élection déclarée valide par la Cour Supérieure ou reconnue définitive par la même Cour, par l'absence de toute protestation formée dans le délai voulu par la loi électorale.

Si cette protestation a été retenue par le fonctionnaire public, auquel elle a été remise dans le délai voulu par la loi, et n'a pas eu par conséquent son effet légal, le coupable sera destitué et puni d'une amende de 2,000 à 3,000 piastres. Dans ce cas, l'affaire est renvoyée de nouveau devant le Tribunal compétent.

Art. 22. Dans tous les crimes ci-dessus les électeurs du collége électoral, dans lequel ces crimes ont été commis, peuvent seuls se porter partie plaignante.

Art. 23. L'action publique sera prescrite après trois mois à partir du jour de la proclamation du résultat de l'élection.

No. 58.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 208. Most Confidential.)
Philippopoli, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed on good authority that my French colleague has recently been censured by his Government for the course which he has been pursuing in this province, namely, that of extenuating the conduct of the Bulgarians towards the Mussulman and Greek minorities.

M. Langlais has certainly on many occasions shown a strong leaning towards the Bulgarians, and it has struck other persons, as well as myself, that his object has been to court their favour in order to secure for M. Maréchal the railway concession which he seeks.

I have been assured that M. Langlais was instructed by his Ambassador to promote in every possible way the views of M. Maréchal, who is at the present moment considerably disappointed at the tacit rejection of his proposals by the Provincial Assembly.

It is expected that M. Maréchal will offer to raise the loan of 100,000*l.* in aid of the agricultural classes, in order to secure the acceptance of his railway scheme at the next Session of the Provincial Assembly.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 59.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 209. Confidential.)
Philippopoli, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 174 of the 3rd April, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from a letter which I have received from Colonel Borthwick, dated the 21st instant.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Colonel Borthwick to Mr. Michell.

(Extract.)
Hasheui, April 21, 1880.

I HAVE just got back here after a lengthy tour through the hills.

I must say that our President has conducted the research with the fairness and impartiality of a gentleman.

There is unfortunately no doubt but that the militia have in localities behaved with brutal license quite unjustifiable even in time of war.

The great fault, of course, lies at the door of one or two officers who failed as far as I can see to maintain, or rather to inculcate, the slightest proper discipline. These ought to be summarily punished.

At the same time exaggerations in amount have been made on the other side, which were quite uncalled for, seeing that the reality is too painful and extensive.

From what source I know not, but I see that the "Maritza" quotes me as indignant at exaggerations, but fails to mention the other side of the question, which is most unfair.

I think when the final Report is drawn up you will find that this Commission has done its duty.

Consequently, I can only hope that the Local Government will take the proper means, as far as lies in its power, of rectifying the evil done, and rigorously punish the offenders.

No. 60.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 210.)
Philippopoli, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith an extract from the "Philippoupolis" containing a summary of the statistics of the population in the Department of Bourgas, the details of which were transmitted to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople by Mr. Consul Brophy in his despatch No. 4 of the 5th instant.

It also shows in a succinct form the unfair manner in which public offices have been

distributed among the representatives of the three principal nationalities of this province, in evident violation of the letter and spirit of the Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 60.

Extract from the "Philippoupolis" of April 24, 1880.

Bourgas, le 9/21 Avril, 1880.

JE vous envoie un Tableau statistique de la population du Département de Bourgas, suivant quant à cela la promesse qui je vous ai donnée dans ma dernière lettre. Faute d'espace et de temps je parlerai de districts en bloc et j'éviterai de nommer les communes, les villages, et les villes. Je mettrai en même temps sous les yeux du public une liste comparative des employés qui forment l'Administration de ce département. Vous verrez par-là jusqu'à quel point l'égalité de droit consacrée par le Statut Organique a été respectée.

Voici maintenant le Tableau statistique des habitants du Département de Bourgas :—

	Bulgares.	Musulmans.	Grecs.	Total.
District de—				
Bourgas	7,100	6,450	4,900	18,450
Aétos	3,940	17,170	600	21,710
Karnabat	3,945	11,095	..	15,040
Anchialo	1,460	5,990	11,590	19,040
	16,445	40,705	17,090	74,240

On voit que la population des Bulgares est presque égale à celle des Grecs, et cela grâce à des éléments venus du vilayet d'Andrinople et d'autres endroits.

Il n'est pas de même pour la population Musulmane où les Bulgares sont dans une proportion de 1 pour 4. Encore leur majorité dans le district de Bourgas est due à la dispersion et à la persécution des habitants Musulmans et à l'installation d'émigrants venus des quatre coins du monde Bulgare.

Si maintenant nous groupons ensemble Turcs et Grecs nous aurons une majorité écrasante.

Cela dit, examinons comment chacune de ces nationalités est représentée dans les affaires de l'Administration, et voyons quelle est la part qu'elle y prend.

A la place de tout argument je laisserai parler les nombres que voici : —

Tableau des Employés du Département de Bourgas.

Districts de Bourgas.	Bulgares.	Musulmans.	Grecs.	Total.
Préfecture	10	1	1	12
,, de Police	1	..	..	1
Médecin	1	..	..	1
Personnel de la police	2	..	..	2
Tribunal Départemental	7	1	1	9
,, Criminel	9	1	..	10
,, de district	5	..	..	5
Ministère Public	4	..	..	4
Préposés de finances	5	..	4	9
Contributions Indirectes	5	..	..	5
Postes et Télégraphes	7	..	2	9
	56	3	8	67

Si nous ajoutons à ces nombres les contingents d'employés des Districts Aetos, Karnabat et Achialo, nous aurons pour le Département de Bourgas un total de 130 employés à répartir ainsi qu'il suit :—

7 Musulmans, 16 Grecs, et 107 Bulgares.

Ce Tableau analysé nous donne 7 employés pour une population de 40,705 Musulmans ; 16 employés pour 17,090 Grecs, and 107 employés pour 16,115 Bulgares. Ces chiffres,

qui sont, croyez-le bien, très-exacts et d'une précision mathématique, je les donne sans les commenter.

Au lecteur intelligent de comprendre ce qu'il en doit être pour les affaires du pays. Mais je ne puis, pourtant, taire une vérité par trop palpable et qui est que nos gouvernants ont honteusement foulé aux pieds le Statut Organique, qui consacre l'égalité de droits pour les nationalités Bulgare, Turque, et Grecque, qu'ils ont gardé le silence du tombeau à nos plaintes contre leurs prévarications, que c'est une grande gloire pour un Bulgare quelconque de bousculer un employé Grec pour le chasser de son emploi: M. Lefkidis, natif de votre ville et employé du télégraphe, en est un exemple très-récent.

Je voudrais avoir le temps pour vous parler administration, vous verriez que je n'aurais pas eu de la peine à mettre au jour plus d'un côté hideux. Je me réserve de le faire dans une autre occasion.

Nous croyons devoir attirer l'attention de nos lecteurs sur notre correspondance de Bourgas. Ils y verront comment les Bulgares se sont partagé l'Administration en excluant les Grecs et les Turcs, et en foulant aux pieds les droits que le Statut Organique leur reconnait.

Notre correspondant qui nous envoie ces renseignements laisse parler les nombres sans rien ajouter de sa part. En effet, c'est à ne pas croire que deux nationalités comptant ensemble une population de 58,000 à 60,000 âmes soient subordonnées à une poignée de Bulgares.

Il en est malheureusement comme le dit notre honorable correspondant.

No. 61.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 450.)
Constantinople, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a petition which I have received from certain Turks and Jews of Eski-Zaghra, Vilayet of Roumeli-Shurki, complaining that the local authorities have taken possession of their property and are selling it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Petition from the People of Eski-Zaghra.

March 12, 1880.

(Translation.)

AFTER reading the certified copy, accompanying this petition, of the "protest" which we have prepared, your Excellency will learn how the Government of Eski-Zaghra has taken under their jurisdiction our property, which we have held from our ancestors for many years, consisting of "evkaf," "mulk," and other lands. This measure is one of great tyranny towards us, and which will cause our ruin; and they have now commenced to sell this property. We have presented many petitions with no result, and our lawful rights are being trodden under foot. Our condition is one to need of justice and humanity; and in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin and the Imperial laws we request protection. It is with this end that we have addressed your Excellency.

(Signed by 12 Turks and 8 Jews.)

No. 62.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 451.)
Constantinople, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

I THOUGHT it advisable to make representations to the Sublime Porte on the subject of the case of the eleven prisoners of the village of Eleshnitza reported to the Marquis of Salisbury in Consul-General Blunt's No. 13 of the 3rd February last, copy of which he forwarded to me.

I have received, in reply, from the Sublime Porte, a communication, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, denying the truth of the statements contained in Mr. Blunt's above-mentioned despatch.

I

I may observe that it is now the habit of the Porte to contradict all such statements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have sent the Porte's communication to Mr. Blunt for any observations that he may have to make upon it.

A. H. L.

Inclosure in No. 62.

Sawas Pasha to Sir A. H. Layard.

Constantinople, le 26 Avril, 1880.

LES renseignements que la Sublime Porte s'est fait donner par les autorités de Salonique démentent le maintien en état d'arrestation de certains villageois d'Elishnitza et autres. Ceux qui, accusés de servir de complices et de receleurs aux brigands, avaient été arrêtés auparavant et conduits à Serres puis à Névrokop, ont été mis il y a longtemps en liberté à la suite d'une décision du Tribunal de cette ville.

Les troupes n'ont rien exigé de personne et n'ont reçu la moindre somme des paysans. Le Chef du village Cavatchortza a, il est vrai, tenté de corrompre le Capitaine des troupes envoyées pour l'arrêter, lui et les siens, en lui offrant £ T. 3, mais le digne Capitaine a repoussé cette offre. Le fait a été constaté devant la Commission d'Enquête.

En somme, toutes ces plaintes et les récriminations analogues paraissent être inventées à dessein par des malveillants.

No. 62*.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 454.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 25*, 1880.

I TELEGRAPHED to Lord Salisbury on the 23rd instant the substance of a communication made to me by the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires relative to the alleged violation by the Turkish authorities at Scutari of the formal Agreement entered into between him and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs on the 7th instant for the surrender of the territory ceded by the Sultan to Montenegro in exchange for Gusinjé. M. Vukovich made a similar communication to the other foreign Representatives who had signed the Protocol of the 18th instant, sanctioning the exchange in question on the part of the Powers signatories of the Treaty of Berlin. The information that my colleagues and myself subsequently received from our respective Consuls at Scutari appeared to confirm the report which had been sent by his Government to the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires. The Austrian Minister and the Russian Chargé d'Affaires were instructed by their Governments to protest energetically and without delay against the breach of the solemn Agreement which has been annexed to the Protocol, and to endeavour to act in the matter in concert with their colleagues. They accordingly requested me to invite those who had signed the Protocol to meet at the Embassy, which I had no hesitation in doing.

Our Austrian and Russian colleagues informed us of the instructions they had received, and the French and Italian Chargé d'Affaires stated that they considered themselves fully authorized to unite with them in any action they might propose to adopt. The German Ambassador felt some hesitation in joining in so solemn an act as a protest without instructions, but expressed his willingness to sign a less formal document, such as a note to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, in order not to separate himself from his colleagues. I was in the same position as Count Hatzfeldt. I considered, however, that I would be justified in taking upon myself the responsibility of joining in a note calling the serious attention of the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the grave responsibility which the Porte had incurred by the violation of its engagement with Montenegro, and pointing out to his Excellency that the only way of avoiding its consequences would be for the Ottoman troops to reoccupy at once the positions which they had abandoned in order to replace matters in the state in which they were before the evacuation of those positions, and to proceed as soon as possible to surrender them to Montenegro, according to the Agreement entered into with the Porte.

A *note verbale* to this effect was drawn up, "Séance tenante," signed by my colleagues and myself, and immediately delivered to Sawas Pasha. I have the honour to inclose a copy of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 62*.

Note Verbale.

Pera, le 24 Avril, 1880.

LE mémorandum annexé au Protocole, signé le 18 Avril dernier, stipule, relativement à l'évacuation des positions par les troupes Ottomanes, "que, vingt-quatre heures avant l'évacuation, les Commandants des points occupés par l'armée Impériale Ottomane auront à prévenir les Commandants de l'armée Princière Monténégrine à Podgoritza de l'heure précise à laquelle ils devront se retirer des points occupés. Ils attendront cette heure sans s'éloigner avec leurs troupes de ces points, et ils ne les quitteront qu'à l'heure fixée."

Attendu que le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman n'a pas avisé aussitôt le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari de la signature du Protocole et des conditions de l'évacuation;

Attendu que le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari a violé d'autre part la Convention, en accordant seulement un délai de sept heures, au lieu de vingt-quatre, aux troupes Monténégrines pour prendre possession des points cédés; que des bandes armées, dans un but de résistance, ont pu, en conséquence, occuper ces points avant l'arrivée des forces Monténégrines;

Par ces motifs, et en attendant les instructions de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, auxquels ils en ont référés, les Signataires du Protocole croient de leur devoir d'attirer la plus sérieuse attention de la Sublime Porte sur la grave responsabilité qu'elle encourrait si elle ne remédiait pas immédiatement à cet état de choses.

Le moyen le plus efficace est que les troupes Ottomanes réoccupent sans retard les positions pour rétablir les choses dans l'état où elles étaient avant l'évacuation, et être ainsi à même de procéder, dans le plus bref délai, sur les bases du mémorandum, à la remise régulière des territoires cédés au Monténégro.

No. 63.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 456.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26*, 1880.

THE "Levant Herald," a newspaper edited by an Englishman, Mr. Whitaker, has been suppressed for publishing some articles setting forth the grievances of the Armenians, and advocating, in forcible language, their claims to justice, protection, and better government, which are termed, in the Decree of the Censor of the Press, "seditious." The two leading Armenian newspapers published at Constantinople, the "Masis," and "Turdjeman Evkel," have been likewise suppressed for similar reasons. An Armenian Committee formed here for raising subscriptions for the relief of the Armenians suffering from famine in the districts of Erzeroum and Van has also, it is stated, been dissolved by order of the Turkish Government, which now looks with extreme disfavour and suspicion upon everything which may bring to the notice of Europe the lamentable condition of the Christian and other populations of Asiatic Turkey.

I inclose an extract from the Turkish newspaper, the "Vakit," giving an official reason for the suppression of the "Levant Herald."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Extract from "La Turquie" of April 2.

LE "Vakit" publie la communication officielle suivante:—

"M. Whitaker, propriétaire du "Levant Herald," récemment supprimé, a publié, il y a quelques jours, en Français et en Anglais, sans permission légale, un papier à l'adresse des habitants de Constantinople.

"Dans ce papier il annonce qu'un Comité formé pour venir en aide aux Arméniens affamés aurait été dissout par la Sublime Porte.

"Le Gouvernement Impérial a toujours eu à cœur le bien-être de ses sujets fidèles et a toujours cru de son devoir de leur venir en aide en cas de besoin. Il s'empresse donc de publier officiellement que la fausse nouvelle de M. Whitaker à été rédigée de manière à refroidir le peuple Arménien à l'égard de son Gouvernement légitime et à faire voir à l'Europe que ce peuple est opprimé par le Gouvernement Impérial."

No. 64.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 457.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 441 of the 21st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship the continuation and conclusion of the Turkish Budget, published by "La Turquie."

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Extract from "La Turquie."

Rapport de la Commission du Budget des Dépenses.

Quatorzième Chapitre.—Il se rapporte aux allocations de la grande maîtrise de l'artillerie.

Le crédit alloué à ce Département pour l'Exercice 1295 était de 91,200,000 paistres, réduction faite de 10 pour cent pour le second semestre. Cette réduction calculée pour une année entière, le crédit à allouer à la grande maîtrise de l'artillerie pour l'exercice courant devait être, par rapport à celui de l'année dernière, de 86,400,000 piastres.

Le crédit demandé pour l'exercice courant dans le projet de budget présenté par ce Département s'élève à 140,000,000 et tant de piastres et présente par conéquent, relativement au crédit de l'année passée, une différence en plus de 54,000,000 et tant de piastres.

Les délibérations qui ont eu lieu avec le grand maître de l'artillerie, invité au sein de la Commission, ayant démontré la possibilité de réduire à un certain dégré le crédit supplémentaire, la Commission s'est mise en rapport avec les délégués de ce Département et avec ceux du Département de la Guerre, et est parvenue à diminuer ce crédit jusqu'à 106,500,000 piastres.

D'après ce calcul, l'augmentation du crédit, par rapport à l'exercice de l'année passée, est réduit de 54,000,000 à 18,000,000 et tant de piastres. Toutefois, en y ajoutant une somme de 18,000,000 et tant de piastres, différence résultant de la perte sur les monnaies, attendu que tous les achats prévus sont calculés en livres Turques à raison de 100 piastres, ainsi qu'une somme de 4,900,000 piastres comme frais de certaines constructions nouvelles, les dépenses de l'exercice courant par rapport à celles de l'exercice écoulé, présentent de nouveau une augmentation de 41,300,000 et tant de piastres.

La Commission, prenant en considération les assurances des délégués de la grande maîtrise de l'artillerie et ceux du Ministère de la Guerre, déclarant que le budget des dépenses de ce Département ne comportait pas une plus grande diminution, a dû adopter les chiffres sus-indiqués.

Quinzième Chapitre.—Il est relatif aux allocations accordées au Ministère de la Marine.

Le crédit alloué à ce Ministère pour l'Exercice 1295 était de 60,800,000 piastres, en calculant la réduction de 10 pour cent pour le second semestre seulement. Cette réduction, calculée pour une année entière, donnerait le chiffre de 57,600,000 piastres, chiffre qui devait figurer comme crédit de l'exercice courant par rapport à celui de l'année passée. Cependant ce crédit a été élevé à 98,901,503 piastres et représente ainsi une augmentation de 38,101,000 et tant de piastres.

Cette différence en plus est motivée: (1) par le crédit nécessaire pour l'exploitation des bateaux de la Mahsoussé et des houillères d'Eregli, somme se chiffrant par 24,500,000

et tant de piastres; (2) par le prix du bois de construction reçu de la Direction des Forêts, prix évalué, d'après la moyenne de cinq années, à 1,125,000 piastres, somme qui s'élève avec les frais de coupe et de transport à 4,500,000 piastres; et (3) par la différence résultant de la perte des monnaies sur la somme destinée aux achats qui seront faits, d'après la déclaration du Ministre de la Marine, en livres Turques à raison de 100 piastres, différence qui se chiffre par 12,000,000 et tant de piastres.

Ainsi cette augmentation des dépenses provient de ce que dans le crédit accordé cette année au Ministère de la Marine sont compris les frais de l'administration des bateaux de la Malsoussé et des houillères d'Eregli, ceux du bois de construction, et la perte des monnaies sur les achats prévus de ce Ministère.

Seizième Chapitre.—Il se rapporte au crédit du Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.

Le crédit alloué à ce Département pour l'exercice écoulé, déduction faite des frais d'entretien de l'Ecole Civile de Médecine et de l'Hospice des Aliénés, frais qui ont été inscrits, ainsi qu'il a été dit dans le chapitre respectif, au crédit de la Direction Médicale, et de la réduction de 10 pour cent opérée pour le second semestre, s'élève à 9,500,000 piastres. En calculant la réduction pour une année entière, ce chiffre se réduirait à 9,000,000 piastres, somme à inscrire au crédit de l'exercice courant par rapport à celui qui a été accordé pour l'exercice écoulé.

Le Ministère a demandé un crédit supplémentaire de 600,000 piastres pour frais de l'Ecole Normale et de l'Ecole des Langues, institutions de création nouvelle.

La prospérité d'un pays est proportionnelle au développement de l'agriculture, du commerce, et de l'industrie, et le développement de ces branches de richesse est absolument subordonné à la diffusion des lettres et au développement de l'instruction publique. La commission ayant en vue ces considérations qui ne sont pas nouvelles, désirerait accorder à ce Ministère un crédit plusieurs fois supérieur à celui qui est demandé, mais vu la pénurie du Trésor, elle s'est contentée d'inscrire le crédit demandé.

Dix-septième Chapitre.—Il se rapporte à l'allocation du Ministère des Travaux Publics.

Le crédit alloué à ce Ministère pour l'exercice écoulé était de 5,462,000 piastres avec la réduction de 10 pour cent le second semestre. En calculant cette réduction pour une année entière, il y avait lieu d'inscrire à l'exercice courant un crédit de 5,175,830 piastres.

La Commission a inscrit ce chiffre avec l'augmentation demandée de 9,600,000 et tant de piastres.

Depuis quelques années non-seulement aucune chaussée n'a été construite dans les vilayets mais encore celles qui existent sont, faute de réparation, devenues impraticables. C'est pour faire face à ces dépenses que ce Crédit supplémentaire a été accordé au Ministère.

La somme accordée est, par rapport à l'étendue de l'Empire, très-minime. Répartie entre tous les vilayets la somme qui reviendra à chacun d'eux suffira à peine au payement des appointements du personnel. Aussi la Commission pense-t-elle, en attendant que les finances de l'Empire permettent l'allocation d'un crédit plus élevé, qu'il serait plus pratique de consacrer pour cette année une partie du crédit supplémentaire à la réparation des chaussées existantes et d'employer l'autre partie exclusivement à l'arrangement des voies de trois ou quatre vilayets seulement. De cette manière, le crédit alloué pourra être employé plus efficacement que si on voulait étendre davantage le cercle d'action.

Dix-huitième Chapitre.—Il se rapporte aux allocations allouées au commerce, à l'agriculture, et à l'industrie.

La Commission a porté au crédit de ce Ministère le chiffre adopté pour l'exercice écoulé, plus un crédit supplémentaire de 379,800 piastres demandé pour dépenses supplémentaires de l'Ecole d'Agriculture, d'une ferme-modèle, et pour récompenses pécuniaires et frais des médailles à accorder à des agriculteurs et à des industriels.

Cette somme est bien minime, mais la Commission a dû pour cette année se borner à ce chiffre qui doit progressivement être augmenté selon les exigences du service.

Dix-neuvième Chapitre.—Il se rapporte au crédit alloué à la Direction des Mines et Forêts, dépendance du Ministère du Commerce.

Le crédit alloué à ce Département pour l'Exercice 1295 était, avec la réduction de 10 pour cent du dernier semestre, de 11,400,000 piastres. En calculant cette réduction pour une année entière, il y avait lieu d'inscrire au Budget de l'exercice courant la somme de 10,800,000 piastres. Cependant ce Département a demandé un crédit de 15,000,000 piastres.

La plus grande partie du crédit alloué à la Direction des Mines et Forêts est consacrée aux frais des mines exploitées directement par l'Administration. Les recettes de ces mines sont inscrites en face des frais alloués pour l'exploitation. Cependant il a été constaté que les recettes, loin de couvrir les dépenses, ont toujours présenté un déficit.

Exemple: Le minerai brut provenant de la mine de cuivre d'Erghani revient à l'Etat à 3 prs. 16 p. l'occque approximativement, et c'est avec grande difficulté qu'il peut être vendu au comptant à 3½ piastres. Le minerai accumulé actuellement est le produit de plusieurs années d'exploitation. En calculant l'intérêt du capital dépensé pour cette production on pourra facilement se rendre compte de la perte qui en résulte pour le Trésor.

Il y avait jadis un fond de réserve pour l'exploitation des mines de l'Administration. Ce fond ayant été pris par le Ministère des Finances et remplacé par des délégations données sur les vilayets, délégations qui n'ont pas été payées régulièrement, l'exploitation de ces mines n'a pu se faire régulièrement. Il est donc nécessaire que le Gouvernement renonce entièrement à l'exploitation directe des mines ou qu'il établisse le fond de réserve en question.

La Commission pense qu'il est plus avantageux pour le Gouvernement de renoncer entièrement à l'exploitation directe des mines.

En ce qui concerne les forêts, il est certain qu'eu égard à l'étendue et à l'importance des forêts de l'Empire, les sommes allouées actuellement à ce service sont insuffisantes pour la bonne conservation et administration de ces forêts. Ce service n'est possible qu'avec des allocations considérables, ce que la situation actuelle du Trésor ne permet guère. La loi en vigueur préserve les forêts, mais cette loi reste inefficace à cause de l'exiguité du personnel chargé de son application.

La Commission, pensant qu'il est indispensable d'augmenter, à un certain degré, le personnel et de compléter, dans la mesure du possible, le service de surveillance, a cru devoir accorder le crédit supplémentaire de 4,200,000 piastres demandé par la Direction. La Commission a pris cette décision dans la conviction que ces branches de revenus ne peuvent être productives que si l'Etat dépense les sommes nécessaires à leur bonne administration.

Pour revenir aux mines la Commission est d'avis que dans le cas où l'Etat pourrait rétablir le capital de fond destiné à l'exploitation des mines, il n'y aura plus nécessité d'augmenter le crédit accordé et que la somme entière inscrite à cet effet pourra être employée à l'amélioration du service des forêts.

Le total des dépenses des quatre parties du Budget Général s'élève, ainsi qu'il a été détaillé plus haut, à 2,195,000,957 piastres. Les recettes, d'après les évaluations de la Commission du Budget des Revenus, ont été calculées à la somme de 1,575,000,000 et tant de milliers de piastres.

Le Budget présente donc un excédant de dépenses de 620,900,000 et tant de piastres.

A l'unification de la dette flottante la somme qui sera allouée de ce chef pour le service des intérêts et amortissements, déduction faite de la somme qui a été inscrite cette année pour ce service, sera ajoutée au déficit.

La situation normale des finances d'un Etat est la base de l'amélioration de son Administration. Pour atteindre ce résultat il faut non-seulement qu'il y ait dans le Budget équilibre des dépenses et des recettes, mais que les recettes dépassent les dépenses, afin qu'il soit possible de faire face aux besoins éventuels qui pourraient se présenter ou de suppléer au déficit qui pourrait résulter de circonstances extraordinaires par le non-rendement des sommes prévues pour un revenu quelconque.

Il est donc indispensable que les efforts soient faits dans l'avenir pour obtenir un accroissement de recettes sur les dépenses. En attendant, la Commission a cru de son devoir de consacrer ses efforts à l'équilibre des dépenses et des recettes de l'exercice courant. Cependant, malgré tous ses efforts et considérant qu'il ne lui a pas été permis, sans assumer une grave responsabilité, de faire dans les dépenses d'autres diminutions que celles qui ont été consenties par les divers Départements, la Commission a laissé au Conseil des Ministres le soin d'y aviser et elle s'est bornée à inscrire sur le budget des dépenses les crédits arrêtés de concert avec les divers Départements et Administrations, et à émettre des considérations sur chaque chapitre du Budget.

En outre la Commission a cru devoir dresser et annexer au budget des dépenses une note indiquant le mode de répartition des revenus entre les divers Départements. Cette note qui donne les proportions des crédits alloués dans les autres pays aux divers services, peut servir de base aux délibérations du Conseil des Ministres. D'ailleurs les répartitions indiquées dans cette note ne sont pas définitives.

La note n'indique que les proportions des crédits alloués aux divers services dans les autres Etats et peut servir de Mémoire pour une discussion approfondie sur ce sujet.

Il appartient au Conseil des Ministres de mettre à profit et de suivre les indications de cette note en réduisant les crédits de certains Départements pour augmenter ceux des autres. La Commission se bornera seulement à faire remarquer que les augmentations indiquées pour certains Départements et Administrations sont des dépenses utiles et servent

à la prospérité et au progrès du pays. La prospérité des Etats Européens est le résultat de leur subordination à cette règle.

Constantinople, le 8 Rebi-ul-Evell, 1296 (6 *Février*, 1295).

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

Extract from "La Turquie."

Tableau I.—Budget Général des Recettes de l'Exercice 1296 (du ½ Mars, 1880, au 22 Février, 1881).

Nature des Recettes.	Prévisions.		Différences.	
	Inscrites au Budget de l'Exercice 1295.	Inscrites au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	En Plus.	En Moins.
Section I. *Contributions Directes.*	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
Verghi; Impôt foncier de Constantinople	210,000,000	225,000,000	15,000,000	..
Taxe de l'exonération militaire	34,000,000	46,000,000	12,000,000	..
Total de la 1re section	244,000,000	271,000,000	27,000,000	..
Section II. *Contributions Indirectes.*				
Dimes	450,000,000	500,000,000	50,000,000	..
Taxe sur les moutons	140,000,000	165,000,000	25,000	..
Taxe sur les porcs	700,000	844,000	144,000	..
Douanes	160,000,000	180,000,000	20,000,000	..
Tabacs	100,000,000	100,000,000	..	..
Droits sur les soies	3,500,000	3,500,000	..	..
Droits sur les spiritueux	18,000,000	18,000,000	..	..
Tapou	20,000,000	20,000,000	..	..
Timbre	14,000,000	14,000,000	..	..
Droits sur les contrats	250,000	..	..	250,000
Taxes judiciaires	8,800,000	10,000,000	1,200,000	..
Droits divers	35,000,000	30,649,000	..	4,351,000
Total de la 2e section	950,250,000	1,041,493,000	90,344,000	4,601,000
Section III. *Recettes Diverses.*				
Salines	70,000,000	70,000,000	..	..
Propriétés immobilières appartenant à l'Etat	8,500,000	5,200,000	..	3,300,000
Forêts	8,000,000	6,070,000	..	1,930,000
Recettes de la marine	9,500,000	36,905,000	27,405,000	..
Recettes du Ministère du Commerce	600,000	600,000	..	..
Droits sanitaires	5,135,000	5,135,000	..	..
Recettes du Ministère de la Guerre	..	28,500,000	28,500,000	..
Mines	18,000,000	2,309,000	..	15,691,000
Télégraphes	15,700,000	15,700,000	..	..
Postes	6,300,000	6,300,000	..	..
Recettes du Ministère de la Police	125,000	70,000	..	55,000
Recettes de la Grande Maîtrise de l'Artillerie	..	4,000,000	4,000,000	..
Produits divers	16,000,000	8,321,000	..	7,679,000
Total de la 3e section	157,160,000	188,710,000	59,944,000	28,656,000
Section IV. *Tributs.*				
Egypte	76,500,000	76,500,000	..	..
Ile de Samos	300,000	300,000	..	..
Mont-Athos	72,000	72,000	..	..
Roumélie Orientale	..	24,000,000	24,000,000	..
Bulgarie	..	..	..	..
Ile de Chypre (excédant des revenus)	..	13,000,000	13,000,000	..
Total de la 4e section	76,872,000	113,872,000	37,000,000	..
Totaux généraux	1,428,282,000	1,615,384,000	220,258,000	33,256,000

Tableau II.—Budget des Dépenses de l'Exercice 1296 (du 1/13 Mars, 1880, au 28 Février, 1881).

Chapitres.	Nature des Dépenses.	Crédits inscrits au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Réductions décidées en Conseil des Ministres sur les crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits définitifs adoptés pour l'Exercice 1296.
	Section I.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
	Dette Publique.				
1	Dette Extérieure—Service des titres de la Dette Générale; service des obligations à prime des chemins de fer de Roumélie	82,074,003	209,647,961	..	209,647,961
2 et 3	Dette Intérieure—Service des Eshami-Djedidé	..	7,681,777	..	7,681,777
	Service des Eshami Mubadelé ..	..	4,436,386	..	4,436,386
	Service des Eshami Adlié ..	36,583,219	17,508,860	..	17,508,860
	Moukatas	..	4,290,318	..	4,290,318
4	Intérêt des Fonds des Orphelins ..	6,996,603	5,895,100	..	5,895,100
5	Dette Flottante—Service des intérêts et amortissements indépendamment des sommes qui sont affectées à ce service sur les arriérés à recouvrer	..	10,000,000	..	10,000,000
	Service des intérêts et amortissement, pour les sommes dues aux banques de Galata, garanti par les revenus de l'Administration des six contributions	..	11,000,000	..	11,000,000
6*	Service de l'emprunt forcé ..	5,467,000	5,365,185	5,365,185	..
7	Somme allouée pour droits commission à la Banque Ottomane	..	20,000,000	20,000,000	..
	Somme allouée à titre de frais aux succursales de la Banque	..	3,500,000	3,500,000	..
8	Pertes sur les monnaies métalliques et différences de changes et escomptes	..	42,375,460	10,511,454	31,863,946
9†	Somme allouée pour le retrait du papier-monnaie calculée sur la base d'un cinquième des revenus	237,016,100	120,000,000	120,000,000	..
	Total de la 1re section ..	366,737,724	550,700,987	159,376,639	391,324,348
	Section II.				
	Dotations.				
1	Liste Civile	..	61,441,463	12,288,292	49,153,172
	Ration de viande du Palais Impérial	..	8,793,940	..	8,793,940
	Allocation pour les bâtisses ..	..	6,000,000	1,200,000	4,800,000
2	Traitements alloués aux Princes et aux Princesses	23,754,886	22,287,764	4,457,553	17,830,212
	Rations y afférentes	7,400,000	7,400,000	1,480,000	5,920,000
3	Sénat	11,875,000	3,007,524	601,500	2,406,019
4	Chambre des Députés		8,242,476	1,648,495	6,593,981
5	Conseil d'Etat	3,661,441	2,763,000	882,600	1,880,400
6	Cour des comptes	..	1,603,860	512,160	1,066,640
	Total de la 2e section ..	122,026,691	121,511,262	23,000,604	98,544,362
	Section III.				
	Législatives.				
1	Restitutions	575,000	575,000	..	575,000
	Total de 3e section	575,000	575,000	..	575,000

* Section 1, Chapters 6 et 7.—Le Conseil a éliminé les sommes allouées aux trois services indiqués dans ces chapitres. (Voir Rapport Commis-sions.)

† Chapitre 9.—Cette somme a été éliminée par le Conseil des Ministres considérant que le papier-monnaie, restant en circulation, ne suffira même pas pour le payement des arriérés, et qu'il ne reste pas de papier-monnaie pour être reçu en payement des impôts de l'exercice courant

Chapitres.	Nature des Dépenses.	Crédits inscrits au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Réductions décidées en Conseil des Ministres sur les crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits définitifs adoptés pour l'Exercice 1296.
	Section IV.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
	Ministères, Administrations, et Vilayets.				
1	Traitements du Premier Ministre et de son personnel	4,507,275	3,555,105	1,264,041	2,291,364
	Total	4,507,275	3,555,105	1,264,041	2,291,364
2	*Magistrature.*				
	Traitements du Cheikh-ul-Islam et des Ulémas	20,037,087	8,957,400	1,925,880	7,031,520
	Naïbs		9,919,747	1,883,949	7,535,798
	Muftis		426,060	85,212	340,848
	Frais divers		173,682	..	173,682
	Total	20,037,087	18,076,889	3,895,041	15,081,848
3	*Ministère de l'Intérieur.*				
	Appointement du personnel du Ministère	59,708,203	2,710,206	668,209	2,041,997
	Appointement des Valis		7,273,800	827,400	6,446,400
	„ „ Mutessarifs ..		8,189,640	1,637,928	6,551,712
	„ „ Caïmacams ..		11,027,070	2,205,414	8,821,652
	„ „ Mudirs ..		4,550,394	910,078	3,640,316
	„ „ Mektubdjis et des Secrétaires		1,708,135	193,735	1,514,400
	Appointement des Chefs de la Correspondance, des sandjaks, et des districts		7,001,705	1,400,341	5,601,364
	Appointements des Premiers Secrétaires des Conseils d'Administrations et d'autres Bureaux		2,140,234	438,040	1,702,188
	Appointement des autres fonctionnaires		1,856,318	371,263	1,485,055
	Frais divers		1,048,986	..	1,048,986
	Frais des prisons		8,780,680	..	8,780,680
4	*Télégraphes et Postes.*	28,500,000	13,016,100	7,018,371	24,959,098
	Traitements du personnel central ..		9,868,893		
	Personnel de la province		1,999,500		
	Matériel et frais divers		422,400		
	Direction Centrale de la Poste ..		316,140		
	Personnel postal de la capitale ..		5,603,324		
	Poste Internationale		1,622,112		
	Frais divers de l'Administration des Postes				
	Direction de l'Ecole Civile de Médecine	1,425,000	774,124	154,824	619,300
	Hospice des Aliénés				
	Totaux	89,633,253	103,213,351	16,150,121	87,063,230
5	*Ministère des Affaires Etrangères.*	12,350,000	5,089,338	1,357,468	3,731,871
	Personnel du Ministère		6,921,435	1,748,448	5,172,987
	Allocations aux Ambassades et Consulats		182,940	36,588	146,352
	Pensions		1,226,262	183,400	1,042,862
	Frais de location		2,608,000	..	2,608,000
	Frais divers	7,105,169	7,105,169	..	7,105,169
	Administration Sanitaire				
	Totaux	19,455,169	23,136,144	3,325,913	19,810,232

Chapitres.	Nature des Dépenses.	Crédits inscrits au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Réductions décidées en Conseil des Ministres sur les crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits définitifs adoptés pour l'Exercice 1296.
		Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
7	*Ministère de la Justice.*				
	Personnel du Ministère	38,220,128	3,762,207	2,029,139	7,538,089
	Cour de Cassation		1,486,668		
	Tribunaux de la capitale		4,012,308		
	Tribunaux des provinces		27,830,426	5,566,085	22,264,340
	Frais divers		2,707,470	..	2,707,470
	Totaux	38,220,128	40,399,074	7,589,224	32,809,850
8	*Ministère de l'Instruction Publique.*				
	Personnel du Ministère	9,500,000	1,347,040	199,268	1,147,772
	Lycée Impérial		1,141,541	150,960	990,581
	Établissements d'Enseignements Supérieurs de Constantinople—				
	Écoles Ruschdiés et préparatoires de Constantinople		1,404,046	208,809	1,195,236
	Écoles Ruschdiés des provinces ..		1,461,351	892,270	3,569,081
	Frais divers		1,197,620	..	1,197,620
	Totaux	9,500,000	9,641,400	1,541,307	8,100,093
9	*Ministère des Travaux Publics.*				
	Appointements du Ministère ..	5,462,500	1,793,530	445,826	1,287,704
	Allocations pour travaux d'utilité publique		13,000,000	1,009,000	9,000,000
	Frais divers		42,300	..	42,300
	Totaux	5,462,500	14,777,830	4,445,826	10,330,004
10	*Ministère du Commerce et de l'Agriculture.*				
	Appointement du Ministère ..	1,900,000	1,033,800	162,360	871,440
	Crédit pour une ferme-modèle et une École d'Agriculture		1,012,000	202,100	809,900
	Frais divers		134,000	..	134,000
11	*Mines et Forêts.*				
	Appointement du personnel central ..	11,400,000	1,892,400	378,480	1,513,920
	Appointement du personnel forestier des provinces		6,361,200	1,272,840	5,091,360
	Appointement du personnel des mines en provinces		6,743,400	..	6,743,400
	Frais divers et capital de fonds pour l'exploitation des mines		..	..	..
	Totaux	13,300,000	17,179,800	2,016,080	15,163,720
12	*Ministère des Finances.*				
	Appointement du personnel du Ministère	29,643,280	7,651,305	1,598,311	6,292,993
	Appointement de l'Inspection des finances		2,073,600	314,720	1,658,880
	Appointement des Defterdars des vilayets		2041,200	289,200	1,752,000
	Appointement du personnel de la Comptabilité du Ministère		2,113,560	..	2,113,560
	Appointement des Muhassébédjis ..		1,981,800	396,360	1,585,440
	Appointement du personnel des Bureaux de Comptabilité des sandjaks		2,483,115	..	2,483,115
	Appointement des Mal-Mudirs ..		3,622,060	..	3,622,060
	Appointement des Trésoriers ..		2,586,600	..	2,586,600
	Frais divers		3,127,740	..	3,127,740

Chapitres.	Nature des Dépenses.	Crédits inscrits au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Réductions décidées en Conseil des Ministres sur les crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits définitifs adoptés pour l'Exercice 1296.
		Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
13	*Contributions Indirectes.*				
	Appointement du personnel de l'Administration Centrale	43,750,000	2,741,280	668,256	2,073,024
	Appointement du personnel des provinces		29,280,520	5,856,104	23,424,416
	Frais divers		11,134,200	..	11,134,200
	Direction du Verghi.				
	Appointement du personnel central ..	14,388,840	3,791,972	863,516	2,928,456
	Appointement des receveurs ..		7,500,000	..	7,500,000
	Frais divers		1,428,576	..	1,428,576
	Appointement des employés du cadastre dans les provinces		6,483,000	1,296,600	5,186,400
	Frais divers du cadastre		2,290,186	..	2,290,186
	Appointement des employés du Defter-Hakani en province		1,948,209	389,640	1,558,569
	Frais divers		826,524	..	826,524
	Direction de la Dime et de la Taxe sur les Moutons.				
	Appointement du personnel central ..	617,880	689,720	183,552	506,208
	Frais divers		48,000	..	48,000
	Appointement personnel provinces ..		51,286,240	5,202,432	46,083,808
	Totaux	84,400,000	160,359,438	17,156,721	133,200,717
14	*Service Militaire.—Ministère de la Guerre.—Nizamié.*				
	Appointement du personnel du Ministère	332,500,000	13,142,383	78,404,353	409,967,941
	École Militaire		4,139,832		
	École Militaire de Médecine ..		4,620,036		
	Frais de constructions		3,000,000		
	Frais de fortifications		1,500,000		
	Frais divers du Ministère ..		171,042		
	Musiques Impériales		3,284,102		
	Écoles préparatoires et Rushdiés militaires de Constantinople et de la province		2,885,903		
	Entretien de l'armée		455,328,089		
	Différence de 20 pour cent ..	..	..	..	..
	Résultant des crédits en bonne monnaie	..	59,029,298	59,029,298	..
15	Appointement de la Direction de la Police et de la Gendarmerie	148,881,056	7,231,300	50,000,000	126,337,000
	Gendarmerie de Constantinople ..		5,649,737		
	Gendarmerie des vilayets ..		158,079,670		
	Frais divers		4,428,294		
	Totaux	481,381,056	723,738,585	187,433,651	536,304,941
16*	*Ministère de la Marine.*				
	Appointement du personnel du Ministère	60,800,000	2,580,996	5,172,852	81,154,650
	Frais divers du Ministère ..		114,070		
	Flotte Impériale		54,905,834		
	Frais des bateaux de la 1re Mahroussé		15,831,672		
	Frais de la mine d'Ereglí		8,695,830		
	Valeur du bois de construction et frais de coupe et de transport		4,500,000		
	Différence de 20 pour cent pour les crédits en bonne monnaie	..	12,274,061	12,274,061	..
	Totaux	60,800,000	98,901,563	17,746,913	81,154,650

* Section 4, Chapitre 16.—La diminution de 5 millions et tant de milliers de piastres résulte de la réduction des appointements et de la réorganisation.

Chapitres.	Nature des Dépenses.	Crédits inscrits au Budget de l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Réductions décidées en Conseil des Ministres sur les crédits alloués pour l'Exercice 1296.	Crédits définitifs adoptés pour l'Exercice 1296.
		Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.	Piastres.
17	*Grande Maîtrise de l'Artillerie.*				
	Appointements du personnel central	91,200,000	6,176,143	24,432,185	76,144,487
	Frais du Département		4,440,000		
	Forteresses et fortifications		31,507,329		
	Fabrication des munitions de guerre		65,454,500		
	Différence de 20 pour cent sur les crédits à bonne monnaie	..	18,185,187	18,185,187	..
	Totaux	91,200,000	128,762,159	42,617,672	76,144,487
18	*Dotations Pieuses.*				
	Allocations de l'Evkaf	9,500,000	9,000,000	2,089,760	6,910,240
	Hedjaz	17,573,863	15,492,006	3,609,394	13,189,529
	Surré-Humayoun	..	1,156,917	..	..
	Allocations aux Tekkés et sanctuaires	819,375	776,250	..	776,250
	Vakoufs des villages	15,706,791	16,934,243	3,180,348	12,747,395
	Totaux	43,600,029	42,359,416	8,786,002	33,573,414
	Pensions et Secours.				
19	Pensions des fonctionnaires civils en retraite	61,375,168	4,457,278	831,455	3,325,823
	Pensions de retraite des militaires ..		28,569,200	6,673,840	22,695,360
	Pensions personnelles et secours aux nécessiteux		16,491,451	3,298,290	13,193,161
	Pensions de disponibilité	..	1,861,285	372,856	1,491,428
	Tchinaklik	..	7,667,946	1,529,589	6,138,357
	Timars et ziamets	7,538,859	7,110,902	1,422,180	5,688,722
	Totaux	68,914,027	65,691,061	13,128,210	52,552,851
	Totaux généraux	1,523,666,339	2,216,511,060	509,585,941	1,733,925,116

Tableau III.—Budget des Dépenses Extraordinaires de l'Exercice 1296.

	Piastres.
Frais extraordinaires pour l'entretien d'une armée de 50,000 hommes ..	96,500,000
Crédit pour l'entretien de 20,000 hommes à détacher de l'effectif en temps de paix et devant figurer dans le budget des dépenses extraordinaires	38,600,000
Frais extraordinaires de la marine	15,851,243
Dépenses extraordinaires pour les émigrés	60,000,000
Total	210,951,243

Résultat Général des Budgets Ordinaire et Extraordinaire de l'Exercice 1296.

	Piastres.
Total des dépenses du budget ordinaire	1,703,925,116
Total des dépenses du budget extraordinaire	210,951,243
Total général des deux budgets	1,914,876,359
Total des recettes	1,616,684,000
Excédant des dépenses	300,292,359

No. 65.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 459.)

My Lord, *Constantinople April 26, 1880.*

THE Russian Chargé d'Affaires has informed me that he has received instructions to effect an exchange of communications with the Sublime Porte, which will give formal and legal sanction to the decisions of the International Commissions employed in the delimitation of the frontiers of Servia and Bulgaria, and of Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia, and of the southern limits of the latter province, which have completed their labours and made their reports. M. Onou wished to know whether I had heard on the subject from my Government and was prepared to take a similar step. I replied that I was aware that the matter had been discussed by the Signatory Powers, but that as yet I had received no instructions from Her Majesty's Government on the subject. He observed that, such being the case, he should delay acting upon his for the present.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 66.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 460. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 26, 1880.*

A PERSON from whom I have frequently received trustworthy information as to what is passing in the Hedjaz, has urged me to impress upon Her Majesty's Government the importance of keeping vigilant watch over any communications which may pass between the new Grand Sheriff of Mecca, Sheikh Abou Moutaleb, and the Mussulman Princes and Notables of India. It is believed that the Sheikh is very anti-English, and that he may attempt, not without the sanction of the Sultan and certain influential persons in Constantinople, to excite a seditious movement amongst the Indian Mahommedans against British rule. My informant is of opinion that Her Majesty's Government would do well to employ some trustworthy Secret Agent to accompany the Indian pilgrims to Mecca when the next pilgrimage takes place, as it is chiefly through them that communication with the Mussulmans in India are carried on, and it is consequently important that the British authorities should obtain information on the subject.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 67.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 461. Secret.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 27, 1880.*

IT is my duty to submit to your Lordship the present state of our relations with the Porte, and the actual condition of Turkey. Before doing so I would venture to call your Lordship's attention to my Very Confidential despatch to Lord Salisbury No. 40 of the 7th January last. In that despatch I have described how the Sultan has succeeded in obtaining absolute power, and complete control over all public affairs. I am bound to state my belief that His Majesty is animated by good intentions, and that he is desirous of promoting the prosperity of his Empire, and the welfare of his subjects. He is, moreover, a Sovereign of much intelligence, and of considerable knowledge for a Prince educated in the Imperial Palace. Unfortunately, the events which brought him to the throne, and those which followed after his accession to it, were such as would have affected the nerves and character of a man of a much stronger constitution than Sultan Abdul Hamid. The dethronement and suicide of his uncle, Abdul Aziz; the insanity and deposition of his brother, Sultan Murad; the assassination of his principal

Ministers; the disastrous war with Russia; and the presence of the enemy at the very gates of his capital, rapidly succeeded each other. These events, and others, have produced their effects in developing that tendency to mental alienation which appears to be hereditary in his family. In the present Sultan it shows itself in an exaggerated fear for his personal safety, which leads him to suspect the existence of constant conspiracies against his life. Soon after the failure of Ali Suavi's plot to replace Sultan Murad on the throne, His Majesty showed decided signs of mental alienation, under which he was labouring when I saw him more than once in his harem. Since that time he has never been beyond the walls of his extensive garden, except to attend a mosque on Fridays, at one of its gates. He is a man of active and frugal habits, and attends closely to business.

The Sultan's constitutional infirmity has enabled a number of fanatical, corrupt, and unprincipled persons to obtain an unfortunate ascendency over his mind. He has been led to believe that, in consequence of the supposed influence over the army of Osman Pasha, the hero of Plevna, a bigoted Mussulman, very ignorant, and much opposed to Europeans and European innovations, he is necessary to his personal safety. His Majesty has, consequently, retained him through all changes of Government, and notwithstanding his recognized incapacity as an administrator, of which His Majesty is fully aware, as Minister of War and Marshal of the Palace. Thinking to conciliate his Mussulman subjects, His Majesty has installed in the Palace several fanatical Sheikhs whom he is in the habit of consulting and who have inspired him with extravagant ideas of his sacred position as Caliph of Islam, and with the fear of offending the Mussulmans by showing too much favour to the Christians. To their evil advice may be attributed, to a great extent, the hesitation of the Sultan in carrying out such of the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin as may bring him into collision with his Mussulman subjects, or compel him to surrender any part of them to Christian rule. Hafiz Pasha, the Minister of Police, maintains his ascendency over His Majesty, and his place, by the vigilance and ability he displays in detecting imaginary conspiracies against His Majesty's person and throne. A number of innocent persons, many of high rank, including some of the leading Ulemas, have been falsely accused by this man, and have been summarily arrested, imprisoned, and sent into exile. Some, according to general rumour, have even disappeared altogether. These arbitrary proceedings have added greatly to the Sultan's unpopularity.

There are several officers of the Palace, such as the Second Chamberlain, Osman Bey, the Chief Eunuch, Bahram Aga, the Bandmaster, Nedjib Pasha, and others, who, having constant access to His Majesty, exercise a considerable influence over him. They are all notoriously corrupt, and in the habit of receiving bribes from those who seek for appointments or have business to transact with the Palace and the Porte. They form what is usually known as "the Palace party." One or two of them are supposed, probably on good grounds, to be in the pay of the Russian Embassy.

As all the power in the State is now in the hands of the Sultan, who has the complete control over public affairs, it is very important that Her Majesty's Government should be made acquainted with His Majesty's political views. I have seen much of His Majesty, and have been invariably treated by him with marked favour and kindness. I believe him to be grateful to me for the services that I have been able on many occasions to render him. Nevertheless, I have not concealed my opinions from him, but have warned him, over and over again, of the dangers to which he is exposing himself and his Empire by the course which he has of late pursued in language which has rarely, if ever, been addressed to a Sovereign. He has received my advice and my warnings in good part. At one time he acted to a certain extent upon them. Of late he has been less inclined to do so. The persons about him, to whom I have referred, have succeeded in inspiring him with a profound distrust and suspicion of England. They have induced him to believe that her occupation of Cyprus, the nomination of English military Consuls in Asia Minor, the interest she shows in the Armenian population, and her peremptory demands for the introduction of reforms into Asiatic Turkey, are so many proofs of a design of annexing his Asiatic territories. He has even told me that England had been accused to him of wishing to acquire the Hedjaz, as by possessing the Holy Cities of Mecca and Medina she could more easily maintain her rule over her vast Mussulman population in India. These suspicions have, no doubt, been encouraged by Russia, and, I have reason to believe, by the French Embassy here.

The irritation against England now felt by the Sultan, and to some extent by his people, was first excited by her proposing at the Congress of Berlin the Austrian occupation of Bosnia and Herzegovina. It was greatly increased by the orders given to the fleet in October last to proceed to Turkish waters. By an unfortunate

oversight* I was not informed of the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government, and only learnt it by a telegram from Admiral Hornby and through the Press. It was nearly a week before I received any official intimation on the subject, I, consequently, was at a loss to give the explanations required by the Sultan of the sudden determination of Her Majesty's Government to send the fleet to Besika Bay. Public rumour attributed it to a resolution, on their part, to compel the Porte, by a hostile demonstration, to put into execution the promised reforms in Asia Minor. I had every reason to believe that such was the case, as I had been instructed to warn the Sultan that the return to office of Mahmoud Nedim Pasha would lead to a change in the policy of Her Majesty's Government, and he had just been brought to Constantinople from exile and named Minister of the Interior. The Sultan was greatly alarmed, and, at one moment, was threatened with a return of the attack of mental excitement that he had experienced after the Ali Suavi affair. Prince Lobanoff availed himself of the opportunity to excite the anger of His Majesty against England, of whose influence Russia was at that time very jealous. Communications constantly passed between the Prince and the Palace, and he went himself to Livadia to see the Emperor. Namyk Pasha was also, about that time, sent on a mission to His Imperial Majesty, the object of which was concealed from the Grand Vizier and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs. It has been suspected, indeed assumed, that a secret Treaty was then entered into by the Sultan with Russia. I have not been able to obtain any evidence to lead me to believe that such was the case. That the representations of Prince Lobanoff, and messages which the Sultan received from the Emperor greatly increased his growing mistrust of England, and effected a change in his sentiments and policy as regards her, there is, I think, ample proof. It is by no means impossible that some secret understanding was come to with Russia, although it may not have taken the form of a written engagement. Nevertheless, it is my conviction that if the Sultan has a leaning towards any European Power, it is towards England. He has a kind of personal attachment to the Queen and the members of the Royal Family, to whom he expresses much gratitude for the kindness he experienced from them when in England with his uncle, Abdul Aziz. He is convinced, that in his own interests and in those of his Empire, he ought to conciliate England. I believe him to have, at the bottom of his heart, an intense hatred of Russia, on account of the disaster and sufferings which the late war has brought upon his country, and especially upon his Mussulman subjects, of the humiliation to which it has exposed him, and of the loss of so considerable a portion of his dominions. This feeling it would be exceedingly difficult for him to get over, but he may succeed in concealing it, and he may even listen to her counsels, as her agents well know how to work upon his suspicious nature.

The Sultan has no love for Austria, to whom he attributes the late disastrous war. He will not easily forgive her for having encouraged the insurrection in Bosnia and Herzegovina for the purpose, he is convinced, of finally annexing those provinces, and for having permitted the Montenegrins to obtain guns and arms through Dalmatia. His Majesty was so incensed against Count Zichy, whom he accused of having deceived him, by promising that Austria would prevent Servia from attacking Turkey, that he treated the Austrian Ambassador with a marked coldness, if not discourtesy, very foreign to his habits. His Majesty has lately seen the impolicy of thus offending a nation which has, on the whole, been friendly to Turkey, and may be of use to her hereafter. He has received the new Austrian Minister with much attention, and an exchange of compliments and expressions of goodwill have passed between His Majesty and the Emperor. His Majesty has more than once told me that he was desirous of entering into a Convention with Austria, by which she should guarantee to him his European possessions, as England had guaranteed to him his Asiatic territories by the Convention of the 4th June.

There is reason to believe that, had His Majesty acted promptly and loyally in executing the Treaty of Berlin as regards the surrender to Austria of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and had not rejected the secret Article of the Convention concluded by his Minister for Foreign Affairs with Count Zichy for the Austrian occupation of Novi-Bazar, he might have obtained some such guarantee.

The relations between Germany and this country have not yet been of such a nature as to lead the Sultan to believe that she has any direct interest, or wishes to exercise any special influence in it, or that she will interfere in its affairs. He has, I

* Sir H. Layard is mistaken in supposing there was an oversight. Admiral Hornby telegraphed to the Admiralty and apparently to Sir A. H. Layard, October 27, that he was going in November to take some vessels from Malta to Vourla, a small bay south of Smyrna. He was told not to go to Besika without asking Sir H. Layard. There was no intention of sending the fleet to the Dardanelles; but the Sultan took fright, and the presence of the fleet in the Ægean was then made use of as a means of pressure on the Porte.—T.

fancy, a general idea that if she did, she would support the policy of Russia. His Majesty's relations with the German Ambassador have always been of a very friendly character, and he has frequently expressed to me his esteem for Count Hatzfeldt.

The influence of France has, of late, been exercised against England, and may have been even more mischievous to her interests than that of Russia. This may mainly be attributed to the character of M. Fournier, the French Ambassador, whose extreme suspicion and jealousy of England, and excessive susceptibility and irritability of temper, have led him to oppose her on every possible occasion. He is convinced that England is preparing to annex the Sultan's Asiatic territories, and that, with this object, she is endeavouring to destroy what he claims to be the legitimate influence of France in Syria.

I would direct your Lordship's attention to my despatch to Lord Salisbury, No. 43, Secret, of the 8th January, in which I gave the substance of a letter, or despatch, alleged to have been written by M. Fournier, and shown to me by Mahmoud Nedim Pasha. Whether this document be authentic or not, it describes very accurately the opinions that have been expressed, to my knowledge, by M. Fournier, and the policy which he has pursued here.

Despatches from Her Majesty's Consuls at Aleppo and Jerusalem, and from the British Vice-Consul at Mossul, will show the use that the French Government is now making of the Roman Catholic clergy in the Levant to extend French influence, and to destroy the ancient rights and privileges of other Christian communities, and the exaggerated pretensions which France is now putting forward to protect Roman Catholic establishments, and even all Ottoman subjects who profess the Roman Catholic faith. The Sultan and the Porte are, perhaps, more disposed to listen to the advice of France than that of Russia, especially as regards the course they should pursue with respect to England. They believe that the former may be a disinterested friend, while they cannot but suspect the intentions of the latter, and attribute her counsels to hostility to England, and to a design to create a misunderstanding between her and Turkey. M. Fournier has found a valuable support in his endeavours to counteract the influence of England in the Palace, and at the Porte, and to thwart her policy, in Commandant Dreyssé, the Sultan's French Aide-de-camp, and M. Tarin, the French Legal Adviser of the Turkish Government. The former, who is very hostile to England, has succeeded in obtaining the Sultan's confidence, and is in the habit of seeing His Majesty at all times.

M. Tarin is employed in the most important public affairs, and, as most State documents in French pass through his hands, or, when coming from the Porte, are actually prepared by him, he is fully informed of all that passes, and exercises no inconsiderable influence over diplomatic negotiations. He is a very able, but a thoroughly corrupt and unscrupulous man, and is in the regular pay of the French Embassy.

Antagonism between the English and French Embassies in the East is greatly to be deplored. The Porte has long learnt how to make use of any differences which may exist between the European Powers, and especially between England and France. It has been my earnest desire to work cordially with my French colleague, and to come to a thorough understanding with him upon all matters connected with this country; but I regret to say that I have found it impossible to do so, in consequence of M. Fournier's excitable and suspicious temperament. To escape a quarrel, I have avoided as much as possible the discussion of political questions with him. Our personal relations have, however, been of a very friendly character. These details may appear trivial, but a knowledge of them is necessary in order to understand the state of affairs in Constantinople, where the most important questions and the most vital interests are too frequently sacrificed to intrigues and personal considerations, and to the conflict of rival influences.

It is very difficult to judge of public opinion in this vast Empire, made up of divers races and creeds. In our sense of the word, it does not probably exist. Such as it is, it may, I think, be considered favourable to England. The Mussulman populations everywhere, and the Christian communities in Asiatic Turkey, with the exception perhaps of the Roman Catholics, look to her for protection against misgovernment and oppression, and rely upon her influence and aid to obtain reforms which can alone bring them justice, rest, and prosperity. The Armenians, encouraged by the Cyprus Convention to look to her for the immediate introduction of those reforms, begin to be disappointed at not seeing them already put into execution. Judging from the reports of our Consular officers at Erzeroum, Van, and Diarbekir, Russia is taking advantage of this feeling to induce the Armenian populations of those districts to turn to her for help and protection, and to prepare the way for future interference in Asiatic Turkey, and further annexation of territory.

As the reports from our Consular officers fully describe the condition of the

Turkish provinces in Europe and Asia, their misgovernment, the corruption and incompetency of the Turkish functionaries, the sufferings of the populations, Mussulmans and Christians alike, and the anarchy that, in many instances, prevails, it is scarcely necessary for me to enter upon that subject. Suffice it to say that never, perhaps, was this Empire in so disorganized and critical a state. This is admitted by every impartial and intelligent Turk. The Sultan, and the ignorant and infatuated men who exercise influence over him, seem alone insensible to the dangers which threaten the throne and the Empire. In any other country in the world, the injustice, maladministration, and misery which at the present time prevail in Turkey would have produced a general uprising of the populations. That they should not have done so hitherto may be attributed to the extreme patience, long-suffering, and respect for the Head of their faith which distinguish the Mussulmans, and to the difficulty of uniting the people against the Government, in consequence of the differences of race and of the religious hatreds that exist amongst them. But there are signs that the present state of things cannot long continue. In Syria detestation of Constantinople rule, and a determination to cast it off, appears to form a bond of union between the (Arab) Mussulmans and the Christians. In Asia Minor, for various reasons, there is less prospect for the present of a similar understanding between them. The state of Arabia, according to all accounts, is very critical, and a formidable insurrection against the Turkish Government may at any moment break out.

The difficulty of coming to a settlement with the Porte of the numerous questions pending between it and Her Majesty's Government and Embassy has been of late very great, almost, indeed, insurmountable. The time and thoughts of the Ministers have been exclusively taken up by the many important questions connected with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin. All other matters have been put aside during the prolonged negotiations, prolonged because neither the Sultan nor the Porte has shown any real desire to bring them to a speedy and satisfactory conclusion, which have attended every one of them. The Ministers, afraid of taking upon themselves individual responsibility, refer everything to the Council of Ministers, which may give a decision, but cannot put it into execution without the approval of the Sultan. All matters of the slightest importance have consequently to be referred to the Palace, where they may remain for an indefinite time, until they are examined by His Majesty and receive the Imperial sanction. The difficulty of transacting business under such conditions is indescribable. It is not only this Embassy that experiences it. All my colleagues make the same complaint. They can get nothing settled. British subjects who have claims on the Porte, and whose interests are at stake, not unnaturally accuse the Embassy of neglecting them.

It will be unnecessary, in this despatch, to bring to your Lordship's notice the various cases pending between this Embassy and the Porte, which, notwithstanding all my endeavours and incessant representations on my part, still remain unsettled. Some of them involve the interests of British subjects who have been most unjustly and illegally treated by the Turkish Government, and who are unquestionably entitled to compensation and redress. Others relate to claims which have long ago been established, and which have been even admitted by the Porte and recognized by the Turkish Tribunals, but the settlement of which I have failed to obtain. Then there are matters affecting the interests of England as well as those of Turkey, the importance of which the Turkish Ministers admit, but which they cannot be brought to deal with in a loyal and straightforward manner, having recourse to every possible deceit, deception, and pretext for delay to avoid doing so.

But above all, there are the unfulfilled promises of the Sultan and the violation of his formal and solemn pledges to England. I allude especially to his Treaty engagements to introduce reforms into his Asiatic territories for the just and impartial government of their populations, and for the protection of his Christian subjects. The most important and urgent of those reforms were specified in Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 928 of the 8th August, 1878, and were accepted, with some modifications, by Safvet Pasha in his note of the 24th October, 1878. They include a gendarmerie organized by European officers, the appointment of Europeans as Financial Inspectors and as Judicial Inspectors in the provinces, and the appointment of the Valis or Governors-General for five years. Not one of them has been loyally put into execution, and the obligations entered into by the Sultan in the Convention of June have been systematically evaded. The English officers who were brought out here by the Turkish Government to organize the gendarmerie have been treated, chiefly, I believe, through the influence of Osman Pasha, with the most marked discourtesy and neglect. Only three have been employed, and every difficulty has been

thrown in their way. Colonel Blunt has succeeded, through the loyal and effective support of Raouf Pasha, and in spite of the determined opposition of Osman Pasha, in organizing a small body of gendarmerie in the Vilayet of Adrianople. Colonel Allix, fortunately beyond the reach of the interference of the Porte and the Minister of War, has done the same in Crete. The third, Colonel Norton, was purposely ordered off in the depth of winter to Bitlis, where he will, in all probability, find nothing to do, and be thwarted by the local authorities in his endeavours to perform the duty assigned to him. Colonel Coope received the order at the same time to proceed to Erzeroum, but having been unable to obey it, in consequence of his pay being in arrears, and of the want of money for his travelling expenses, was summarily dismissed the service. The remaining officers, notwithstanding the repeated promises made to me by the Sultan and the Porte that they should be employed, have been allowed to remain in idleness. Their contracts will, I believe, expire in June or July next; there is every reason to believe that they will not be renewed, and all the officers who, at great expense, were engaged to organize a service essential to the tranquillity and prosperity of the country, will be allowed to return to England. A more striking instance of the folly and bad faith of the Turkish Government could scarcely be given.

No European Judicial Inspectors have, to my knowledge, been named. To satisfy me, Mr. Ede, an English lawyer practising in the Consular Court, was offered the appointment in the unimportant Vilayet of Trebizond. But he was unable to come to any arrangement with the Porte, and the matter fell through. Almost the same has occurred with respect to the Financial Inspectors. Mr. Calvert has named to the post, and Her Majesty's Government authorized his temporary acceptance of it, whilst retaining at the same time his Vice-Consulship at Rhodes. But Mr. Calvert found that, instead of being named First-class Inspector, as I had received a distinct assurance that he should be, he was placed under the orders of a Turkish functionary. As he could not, under these circumstances, perform his duties usefully and independently, he refused, on my recommendation, to accept the appointment.

As regards the nomination of the Valis for five years, no change whatever appears to have been made in the ancient system. They are still appointed and removed at the pleasure of the Sultan.

It will be thus seen that not one of the engagements entered into by the Porte with England for the introduction of reforms into the Turkish Asiatic provinces has been fulfilled. Commissions, including Christian members, have been sent, ostensibly with that object, to some of the provinces; but, according to the Consular Reports, they have effected little or nothing. They were only authorized to inquire and report, without being invested with any executive powers. In some instances their presence appears to have been productive of more harm than good, by encouraging the Christians to put forward complaints against powerful Mussulman Chiefs, to whose vengeance they have thus exposed themselves.

The Sultan promised me repeatedly that Baker Pasha should be raised to a high command in Kurdistan and the provinces of Erzeroum and Van, and had authorized me so to inform Her Majesty's Government. That promise was not kept. In consequence of my constant remonstrances, and to satisfy Her Majesty's Government, Baker Pasha was appointed the head of a Commission raised to visit Asia Minor, Mesopotamia, and part of Syria, and to report upon their condition, especially with reference to the organization of the gendarmerie. But he has no power to put any reform into execution. Care has been taken that he should be accompanied by an officer in the Sultan's confidence, one Suleiman Bey, raised on the occasion to the rank of a Pasha, who was placed as a spy upon his movements, and is in direct communication with His Majesty. I am informed that he is exceedingly anti-English, and he appears to have done his best to thwart Baker Pasha on every occasion. Under these circumstances, it is not to be supposed that the mission of that officer will lead to any practical result.

The Règlements, or Organic Laws, which, according to the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, were to be introduced into the European provinces of Turkey, after having been framed by local Commissions in which the local element was to be largely represented, and afterwards approved by the Eastern Roumelian International Commission, have not yet been promulgated. They have not, it would appear, been prepared according to the provisions of this Article, and has not yet been submitted to the Commission. No effective gendarmerie has been organized for these provinces, except in the Vilayet of Adrianople, notwithstanding the repeated assurances given to me that some of the English officers should be employed with that object. Osman Pasha has set his face against it. The result has been that there is little or no protection for life and property in Macedonia, Epirus, and Thessaly, that brigandage is rife, that the

Christians are ill-treated and oppressed with impunity, and that the state of those provinces is bordering upon one of anarchy.

I have exhausted every diplomatic resource in endeavouring to bring the Sultan and his advisers to a sense of the danger to which the Empire is exposed, in consequence of the state of things I have described. I have used every representation and remonstrance—I may almost say menace—to induce them to put into execution, and to carry out loyally and fully, the promised reforms. I have made incessant personal appeals to the Sultan himself. I have placed before him, even in writing, without reserve, the condition of his Empire, and the consequent disaffection of his subjects. I have exposed to him the incapacity and corruption of his Ministers, and of high public functionaries. I have pointed out to him the inevitable consequences of his disregard of the warnings which he has received, the forfeiture of the sympathy and friendship of England, and the possible further dismemberment of his Empire, if the European Powers should find themselves compelled to interfere to put an end to the anarchy which exists, and to insure justice and good government to the suffering populations under his rule. But hitherto in vain. His Majesty is ever ready to give promises, which are unfortunately not fulfilled, owing to the evil influences always ready to counteract the impression that may have been made upon him by myself, or by any other foreign Representative who may hold the same language to him. It is of no use making threats which are not to be put into execution. If we are in earnest in wishing to save this country, but at the same time to reform its Administration, so that its populations may be justly and impartially governed, we must be prepared to go further than mere menaces.

It may be asked why the Sultan and his advisers are showing such obstinacy in putting into execution the reforms that they have engaged themselves to introduce. I believe the truth to be that since the end of the war His Majesty has been persuaded by the fanatical and anti-European party that, as the experiment tried by his predecessors of introducing European institutions and reforms on the European model into the Empire has only ended in launching Turkey into bankruptcy and into a disastrous war, he should now do without Europe, and improve and reform his country upon Turkish and Mussulman lines. Some of the principal men in his present Ministry, and the "Palace party," hold this opinion, as proved by the endeavours they are now making to free themselves from the Capitulations, and to act, not only independently of the European Powers, but in contempt and violation of the Treaty and other engagements entered into with them. It is this attempt to ignore and defy Europe that has led of late to frequent remonstrances against the arbitrary proceedings of the Porte on the part of the foreign Representatives, who have acted cordially together in resisting them. The Sultan and his advisers do not appear to see the danger of thus raising questions which unite the European Powers against Turkey.

Before concluding this despatch, there are one or two matters which I desire to bring to your Lordship's serious consideration. The most urgent is, perhaps, the condition of Eastern Roumelia. I venture to think that Her Majesty's Government will have to decide, without delay, as to the course which they may consider it right to pursue with respect to that province. If the Treaty of Berlin is to be carried out with regard to it, if it is to be maintained as an autonomous province under the authority granted to the Sultan by that Treaty, and if the Organic Statute is to be enforced in its spirit, and impartially carried out so as to secure the liberty and rights of all classes of the population, steps must be taken by the Signatory Powers to put a stop to the proceedings of Aleko Pasha and his Bulgarian advisers. The selection of Aleko Pasha as Governor-General of the province was, in every respect, a most unfortunate one, if it were intended that the Treaty of Berlin was to be executed. The Porte has been too much occupied with other matters to interfere with his proceedings. It has a vague notion that the Powers who signed the Treaty of Berlin will, in the end, insist upon its execution, and that the time will then come for it to remove Aleko Pasha and to occupy the Balkans with its troops.

Another pressing question which cannot be left unsettled is that of the Greek frontier. I have received no official communication on the subject since I presented, instructed by Lord Salisbury, a note to the Porte on the 10th March last, informing it of the proposed appointment of the technical Mixed Commission. Savas Pasha, the Minister for Foreign Affairs, communicated to me an unofficial *procès-verbal*, for transmission to Lord Salisbury, and there the matter rests. I understand that the Sultan and his Ministers still believe that a line can be offered to Greece which would be considered acceptable by the Signatory Powers, and with which, probably with some modifications, she would be compelled to rest satisfied. The nature of this line has been the subject of frequent deliberations of late by the Sultan and his Ministers, but no decision has, as far as I know, been yet come to, as His Majesty and some of his advisers appear to be

determined, even at the risk of war, not to surrender Janina, Prevesa (the possession of which they consider absolutely necessary to the maintenance of Turkish rule in Albania), or any important part of Epirus to Greece. It is absolutely necessary, in my opinion, that the Signatory Powers should themselves come to an understanding without further delay as to the concessions which they are prepared to enforce upon Turkey.

The state of Macedonia and Albania calls for serious attention. The addition of the district of Sophia to Bulgaria was fatal to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin as regards Eastern Roumelia and the remaining provinces of European Turkey, supposing there to have been any real intention of carrying it out. If Eastern Roumelia were intended to be a barrier against the aggrandisement of Bulgaria, and a real defence to the Turkish Empire in Europe, it ought to have been made conterminous with Servia. By giving Sophia to Bulgaria, a door was opened for that Principality into Macedonia, as if for the very purpose of defeating the ostensible objects of the Treaty. A mere glance at a coloured map will show that such is the case. The Bulgarians will not be slow to avail themselves of the advantage thus given to them. Incessant intrigues will be carried on amongst the Bulgarian population of Macedonia, and the entry into that province of armed bands, which, from the nature of the country, can scarcely be prevented, will prepare the way for a general rising, and for events which may again lead to foreign interference. It is, perhaps, more than doubtful whether any attempts of the Porte, even if they be loyally intended and successfully accomplished, to introduce good and just government into the province, and to satisfy its Christian inhabitants, will have the effect of reconciling them to Turkish rule. At any rate, the Porte must be summarily called upon to put into execution the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, as regards the Organic laws or Règlements to be introduced into European Turkey.

As regards Albania, a spirit of opposition to Turkish rule and a demand for autonomy appear to be showing themselves amongst the populations, Mussulman and Christian, which, if the Porte does not take immediate steps to improve the administration of the province, and to enforce its authority in it, may lead to serious consequences. On this subject your Lordship will obtain valuable information from the despatches of Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend.

The condition of the provinces of Eastern Asia Minor is one which must attract the immediate notice of Her Majesty's Government. The Porte has bound itself by the Treaty of Berlin to the Signatory Powers, and by the Convention of the 4th June to England, to introduce into those provinces such reforms as may be necessary to secure the just and impartial treatment of their Armenian inhabitants, and such measures as may protect them from oppression and outrages on the part of the Kurds and Circassians. By the LXIst Article of the former Treaty, the Porte engages itself to inform the Signatory Powers periodically of the measures taken by it with these objects. The Powers themselves are entitled to watch over their execution. Although two years have nearly elapsed since the conclusion of the Treaty, the terms of this Article have not been complied with. The condition of the Armenians has in no way improved. It is even stated to be worse than it was before the war. In addition to the outrages of the Kurds, and the maladministration of the Turkish functionaries, famine has appeared to increase their sufferings. They naturally turn to the Signatory Powers, and especially to England, for help and protection. It is absolutely necessary that something be done for them, and that the Turkish Government be given to understand that the present state of things can no longer be permitted to exist. But the measures to be taken in this respect must be very maturely considered. The Armenians themselves, encouraged by the sympathy which they have received in England, and relying upon the change which they believe is about to take place in her policy as regards Turkey, are looking to the formation of an autonomous, if not to a semi-independent, Armenia. Schemes with this object proceed chiefly from Armenian Committees, from a part of the Armenian press, and from influential Armenians residing in Constantinople and in Europe. Any attempt at their realization, under present circumstances, might lead to very grave consequences, and to disasters to the Armenians themselves. It must not be forgotten that they form the minority, and in many districts the very small minority, of the population. It is foolish and dangerous to seek to disprove this fact by ignoring the Kurds. The Mussulmans of Asia Minor have learnt the fate of their brethren in the autonomous Christian provinces of European Turkey. They would not be disposed to submit to a similar fate without resistance. A demand for autonomy in Armenia might lead to massacres, which would bring about the immediate interference of Russia, and its inevitable consequences. Nor would it be likely, even if successful, to preserve the nationality of which the Armenians are so proud. Russia would probably never permit an Armenian autonomous or independent State, and any attempt to form one would only end in the absorption of the Armenians into the Russian Empire, and the ultimate extinction of this ancient nation,

and its language and faith. What the Armenians are entitled to, and what we have the undoubted right to demand for them, is good government, and their just and fair share in the Local Administration, with the immediate and effective introduction of the promised reforms into the provinces which they inhabit. Hitherto little or nothing has been done by the Porte to fulfil its engagements in this respect. The appointment made by the Sultan, at my suggestion, of Rustem Pasha as Vali of Erzeroum, promised well; but unfortunately ill-health prevented him accepting the post. His Majesty has not since shown any inclination to name a Christian to it.

The financial embarrassments of the Porte, notwithstanding the plausible appearance of the new Budget, threaten to become so serious, and the claims of the foreign creditors of Turkey are so urgent, that the Signatory Powers will probably be compelled to insist upon the appointment of the International Financial Commission proposed by the Italian Plenipotentiary to the Congress of Berlin, as recorded in its 10th Protocol. It will be strenuously resisted by the Sultan.

In conclusion: the most enlightened and patriotic Turkish statesmen and functionaries, and the most intelligent Turks, are fully alive to the dangers which threaten the Empire, and are prepared for the adoption of decisive and radical measures to avert them. The most distinguished of them have been sent away from the capital into honourable exile as Governors-General, or to fill other posts, because they are known to advocate a change of system, Mahmoud Nedim, Safvet, and Haïreddin Pashas being the only men of note left in Constantinople. With several of them I am in personal and confidential communication. They are unanimous in expressing to me their conviction that the only measures that can save Turkey from speedy collapse are the immediate dismissal of the present incompetent Ministry; the removal from the Palace, and from access to the Sultan, of those men who now exercise an evil influence over him; the effective control of the arbitrary power which His Majesty has succeeded in concentrating in his hands; the establishment of Ministerial responsibility; the extension of the powers of the Valis; and the meeting of the Chambers, as provided for by the Constitution, or of some representative body, at Constantinople, with local popular Assemblies in the provinces. They are further convinced that until these things are effected the reforms which the Powers have demanded, and the Porte has solemnly undertaken to carry out, will not be put into loyal execution. The Sultan and his present Ministers will only continue to seek to deceive Europe by making a show of listening to her counsels.

I share their views to a great extent. Unfortunately there are, apparently, no men in Turkey capable of imposing these measures upon the Sultan. It can only be done by a popular movement, under some leader of influence, energy, and determination, or by the combined action of the Great Powers, if such combination be possible. A commencement might be made by calling upon the Porte to put into execution Midhat Pasha's Constitution, which was formally communicated to the Powers on its promulgation. The defects which it is admitted it contains might be remedied.

In the month of November 1878 a Circular was addressed by Safvet Pasha, then Minister for Foreign Affairs, to the Turkish Representatives abroad, and communicated by them to the Governments to which they were respectively accredited, declaring that the Ottoman Constitution granted by the Sultan still formed the fundamental law of the Turkish Empire, and that the convocation of the Chamber of Deputies and of the Senate had been delayed on account of the exceptional circumstances in which the country was then placed, but that it was only adjourned to the following year. Since that time no further communication has been made on the subject to the Powers, and last year was allowed to pass without the meeting of the Chambers. The form is, however, still maintained of officially making all new laws promulgated by Imperial "Iradé," or Decree, subject to their approval.

Under these circumstances it appears to me that the Powers have a right, if they think fit to exercise it, to demand that the National Assembly should be called together. If Her Majesty's Government were disposed to do so alone, or in conjunction with other Governments, they would, I believe, be supported by the most intelligent, enlightened, and liberal public opinion in the Empire. An adequate control might, in this case, be placed on the arbitrary power of the Sultan, the few experienced and enlightened men who are still to be found in Turkey might be called to His Majesty's counsels, and those reforms, which can alone save the country from a rapid and speedy downfall, might be put into execution under European supervision.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 68.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 462. Secret.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul Zohrab's despatch No. 7, Political, Secret, of the 7th instant, stating that the Sultan had, in the first instance, named Aoui Pasha Grand Sheriff of Mecca, and then Abou Montaleb, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have reason to believe that Mr. Zohrab is misinformed on this point, and that this was not the case.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 69.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 463.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1880.

My Lord,

IN pursuance of the instructions contained in Lord Tenterden's telegram of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to inclose a list of the vilayets of the Turkish Empire and of their Governors. I have put a cross against the names of those who, on the whole, appear to be administering successfully the Governments which they hold, and who would be disposed to put into execution the promised reforms, and to deal justly and impartially with the Christian population, if they were relieved from the constant interference of the Palace and of the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 69.

List of Valis and Vilayets.

Names of Vilayets.	Names of Valis.	Observations.
†Houdavendighiar ..	Ahmed Vefik Pasha ..	Late Prime Minister.
†Aidin	Ahmet Hamdi Pasha ..	Late Grand Vizier.
Castamouni	Ghalib Pasha	He has the rank of Vizier.
Angora	Kourshid Pasha ..	Ditto.
Konieh	Akif Pasha	Ditto.
Sivas	Hakki Pasha	He has the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
†Mamouratul-Aziz ..	Aziz Pasha	Ditto.
Diarbekir	Izzet Pasha	He is a Field-Marshal of the Imperial army.
†Trebizond	Sirri Pasha	He holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Erzeroum	Mustafa Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
Adana	Zia Pasha	Ditto.
†Aleppo	Said Pasha	Ditto.
†Syria	Midhat Pasha	Late Grand Vizier.
Tripoli of Barbary ..	Izzet Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
†Bagdad	Abdul Rahman Pasha ..	Ditto.
Yemen	Ismail Pasha	General of Division.
†Hedjaz	Nashid Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
Bitlis	Arif Pasha	He holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Van	Hassan Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
†Jerusalem	Raouf Pasha	Jerusalem is not a vilayet but a sandjak, which is in immediate dependence upon the Sublime Porte. The Governor holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Mossil	Abdul Nafi Effendi ..	He holds the rank of Oula of the First Class.
Bassorah	Safvet Pasha	General of Division.
†Adrianople	Raouf Pasha	Field-Marshal of the Imperial Ottoman army.
†Salonica	Abeddin Pasha	He holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Yanina	Mustapha Assym Pasha ..	Field-Marshal of the Imperial Ottoman army.
†Island of Crete ..	Photiadi Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
Mounstir	Ghazi Ahmet Moukhtar Pasha	Field-Marshal of the Imperial Ottoman army.
Thessaly	Khalil Pasha	This province is a sandjak, which depends directly upon the Porte. Its Governor is called Mutessarif, and holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Scutari in Albania ..	Izzet Pasha	General of Division.
Kossova	Fikri Pasha	He holds the rank of Beylerbey of Roumelia.
Constantinople ..	Mazhar Pasha	He holds the rank of Vizier.
†Islands of the Ottoman Archipelago	Sadyk Pasha	Formerly Prime Minister.
Eastern Roumelia ..	Aleko Pasha	This province is administered independently. The Governor holds the rank of Vizier.
†Lebanon	Rustem Pasha	This province is administered independently. The Governor, who holds the title of Mutessarif, has the rank of Vizier.
†Island of Samos ..	Kostaki Pasha	This province is administered independently. The Governor holds the rank of Vizier. The island forms a Principality.
Egypt	Tewfik Pasha	This province is administered independently. Its Governor holds the rank of Grand Vizier, and ha the title of Khedive. The province is called Khediviet.
Tunis	Mehmet Sadyk Pasha ..	This province is administered independently. The Governor holds the rank of Vizier.
Bulgaria	Prince Alexander I ..	This is a Principality.

No. 70.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 466.)

Constantinople, April 27, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Consul-General Blunt's despatch to me No. 139 of the 31st December last, copy of which he transmitted to Lord Salisbury, I have the honour to inclose translations of two further petitions from some of the principal Mussulman refugees in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 70.

Petition from Mahommedan Refugees in Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

WHEN the Russians and Servians overran our country, the oppression they exercised on the Moslem population, and the iniquitous acts which the savage Bulgars, worse than wild beasts, and destitute alike of humanity and civilization, were emboldened by the opportunity to commit, being totally unsupportable, we were compelled to abandon our country, and have since then dwelt in poverty, under the protection of the Sublime Porte, the shadow of Justice, and have remained in safety under the outspread wings of its compassion and kindness. For the past two years we have been hopefully looking forward to peace and prosperity, though we have experienced want and every other calamity. We have with difficulty been able to subsist on the ration of half an oke of bread granted us per day; and now, owing to the excessive embarrassments of the Ministry of Finance, an order has been issued to stop entirely the daily rations at present given on and after the 1st March. Everybody knows that had we by now sold all the property which we were able to save from our enemies in our flight, and spent the money in supplying our urgent needs, only 1 para out of 3 would remain. We therefore desire to obtain a livelihood by our bodily labour in these parts; for it is unjust that our children and wives should perish before our eyes of hunger, and without medicines; our despair and affliction are such that they cannot be described. Expecting that any person who has any title to humanity will be satisfied that we are in misery, we have repeatedly implored and petitioned that until, in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin, we are put in possession of our lands and property in our country, rations as before should be granted us. We beg and implore you to communicate the matter to the Sublime Porte, and by mediating and pointing this out to the notice of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan to attract to us his compassion and kindness.

(Signed by 108 persons, of whom 12 are from Kustendil, 7 from Nisch, 5 from Orkhanié, 9 from Lescowtcha, 6 from Bercowtcha, 3 from Radomir, 12 from Lowtcha, 6 from Rahowa, 5 from Selvi, 7 from Scharkeui, 5 from Dubnitza, 5 from Sophia, 7 from Vrania, 6 from Vratcha, 7 from Seroi.)

February $\frac{5}{17}$, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 70.

Petition from Mahommedan Refugees from Bulgaria.

(Translation.)

OF the petitions which we presented to the Ambassadors of the Great Powers, trusting that they would search for a remedy to put an end to the unendurable evils to which we have been subjected by the late war, and for the defence and protection, in conformity with the previous guarantees of the Powers, of our manifestly lawful rights to the possession of our lands and property, which we have not yet obtained and which are in the hands of our robbers, one was presented to your Government's Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

The illustrious Zeyn-ul-Abedin Effendi, a nobleman of Kustendil, has, on your part, communicated to us all the assurance of the Minister's satisfaction and of the consideration of our question as speedily as our hearts could desire, with consolation from the Minister to those stricken by adversity. May his end be peace!

We have all acquired new life from the favour, kindness, and generous humanity he has shown our unfortunate selves, and the assurances now given of attention to our question have brought confidence to our inmost hearts, before given up to despair and grief.

Through you we express and declare the thanks that are due to the Minister, and state that our evil plight is gradually getting worse, as you are well aware that, in consequence of the discontinuance of the rations (half an oke a-piece) now our daily support, we are all in extreme poverty and grief, imploring you to humanely endeavour to put an end to our affliction.

We desire and entreat you to draw the attention of civilized nations, and to excite

their feelings of humanity and compassion towards us, and inclose in our petition a letter of thanks.

(Signed by 108 persons, of whom 12 are from Kustendil, 7 from Nisch, 5 from Orkhanié, 9 from Lescowtcha, 6 from Bercowtcha, 3 from Radomir, 12 from Lowtcha, 6 from Rahowa, 5 from Selvi, 7 from Scharkeui, 5 from Dubnitza, 5 from Sophia, 7 from Vrania, 6 from Vratcha, and 7 from Seroi.)

February $\frac{5}{17}$, 1880.

No. 71.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 11.)

My Lord, *Pera, April 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to request that a short explanatory addition may be made to paragraph 3 on the last page but one of the memorandum I sent yesterday, as follows:—

Add to end of paragraph this new sentence:—

"This point is the same which Colonel Clarke repeatedly agreed to accept, and which was the point (X) in the trace at first shown to him as that signed by the Turco-Russian Commission."

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 72.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 13.)

My Lord, *Pera, April 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward herewith the substance of my telegram No. 4 (in cypher) of this date.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

Inclosure in No. 72.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, April 26, 1880.*

SAWAS PASHA and I have had an interview. The Turkish Government remain firm as to the disputed point on the watershed. They are very much opposed to a rendezvous at Tiflis, respecting which no proposal has been made to them. They have already asked M. Onou to bring his Commissioner here, and will repeat the invitation to-day. It will also probably be telegraphed to the Turkish Minister at St. Petersburgh. The absence of the Russian Commissioner causes a very unfortunate delay, and is a pure waste of time.

No. 73.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No 14.)

My Lord, *Pera, April 26, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I saw M. Onou on the 24th, who said that the information he had left verbally for me with Captain de Wolski was the reply from St. Petersburgh to the questions I had requested him to put. He observed that he had not meant to imply that there was concert between the Russian and British Governments on the subject of assembling at Tiflis, but only that he imagined there had been communi-

cation between them on the subject. He had no information to give beyond what I have already received from you, and could suggest no reason for the desire for making Tiflis the place of assembly.

Yesterday Sawas Pasha called on me, according to appointment.

With regard to the subject of Tiflis, he said no intimation had been conveyed by the Russian Government to his; but that, on the other hand, the Turkish Government had, before my arrival, invited M. Onou to bring the Russian Commissioner here by the 13th instant, in time to meet me. He is to see M. Onou to-day, when he will repeat and urge the invitation; and in case M. Onou cannot take steps in the matter, Sawas Pasha will telegraph to the Turkish Minister at St. Petersburgh to press it on the Russian Government. He decidedly refuses to make Tiflis the rendezvous.

With regard to the point west of Karaourgan, he said that the Turkish Government were firm in requiring that it should be at the intersection of the watershed with the parallel (point X), and that he had always maintained that view last year in conversation with Prince Labanoff, refusing assent to the so-called decision of the Russo-Turkish Commission.

He said Prince Labanoff had then pressed him to finish the work of the 1st section down to, and inclusive of, this point, but that he had declared it to be impossible to do so without the concurrence, as to the point in question, of the British Government.

He said Nedjib Pasha had been now appointed to the Commission, and also Chehab Bey, and that the former should come to confer with me to-day or to-morrow.

He also expressed his desire, in case the Russians should persist in claiming a point other than X, that the work of delimitation should nevertheless proceed with the least possible delay, reserving this and other disputed points to be settled by the Cabinets.

Nothing is wanting to the resumption of the business but the presence of the Russian Commissioner. It is, of course, a great disappointment to me to learn by your telegram of yesterday that, after I have been for so many weeks pressing for the meeting of the Russian Commissioner with his colleagues, the Russian Government is only now taking steps to ascertain where he is, and proposing a very distant place of meeting, which the Turkish Government will not consent to. If he has to come from Tiflis, much time, most valuable at this season, will already have been lost, as, even if he comes without delay, considering that some preliminary meetings will be necessary, the Commission can hardly start from here till the middle of May, or begin work on the frontier till June.

I cannot but hope that if the Russian Government is really desirous of dispatching the business of delimitation it will, considering the extreme unreasonableness of its contentions last year, be induced to abandon them; and that if representations were made to it in a conciliatory way of the impossibility that the other Powers concerned should consent to ignore the Treaty of Berlin, and forego those points of its provisions which it was their special object to establish, such firm and temperate insistance might conduce to this result.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 74.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 15.)
Constantinople, April 27, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that on the 25th instant I had an interview with Chehab Bey, one of the Turkish Commissioners on the Asiatic boundary, and discussed with him the main points of the business, to one of which I beg to invite your attention.

The Treaty of Berlin prescribes that from the point near Karaourgan the frontier is to be directed on Medjingert. But there are in reality two Medjingerts, the upper and lower, situated at a distance of 2½ miles from each other, the upper lying north-east by north of the lower.

Chehab Bey was disposed to claim the upper village as the point of direction. He argued that when Medjingert only was mentioned, this, the principal village, was universally understood to be meant in those parts.

Also, though he did not mention it, the line from Upper Medjingert to Kessa Dagh would leave the large village of Kara-Kilissa to Turkey; whereas the line from Lower Medjingert to Kessa Dagh would leave it to Russia.

It becomes necessary, therefore, to consider which view I should take, supposing the Russian Commissioner (as is to be certainly reckoned on) to contend for the direction on Lower Medjingert.

The document on which the extent of the Russian concession, to retire the frontier claimed under the Treaty of San Stefano, was recorded, is the trace left by Count Schouvaloff with Lord Salisbury on the 29th May, 1878. It is essential, therefore, to inquire what part the term "Medjingert" was intended to take in that trace.

There are two Russian maps in my possession of the same country, and on the same scale as Count Schouvaloff's trace, viz., 20 versts to 1 inch. On one of these maps two Medjingerts are shown; the lower village being described as "former fort of Medjingert," the other as "Upper Medjingert." The other map shows only one Medjingert, figured as a fort.

A careful comparison of these two maps shows that the single Medjingert on the one map is identical with the Lower Medjingert of the other.

I have also compared the map showing two Medjingerts with the Russian large scale map (1 verst to an inch), which also shows two Medjingerts, and find that the position of the two villages corresponds with approximate accuracy on both maps.

Count Schouvaloff's trace fits, and was evidently taken from the small scale map on which both Medjingerts are marked, the Medjingert on his trace corresponding with the lower village of that name. This map is marked, "In Lord Loftus' despatch of the 10th April, 1878," of which I cannot find a copy amongst my correspondence. As possibly this despatch might throw some light on the subject, I should be glad to be furnished with a copy of it.

Considering, therefore, that the only reason for the Russian Government to direct the line through Medjingert must have been that it was a point marked on the map, and that no consideration as to the relative size or importance of the two villages could have influenced their course, it seems fair to let their manifest intention determine the question; and I cannot but think that the Turks are bound to abide by the point which corresponds with that in the original trace, namely, Lower Medjingert.

It is desirable that this matter should be referred to Sir Lintorn Simmons, as having taken a main part in the discussions upon which Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin was framed.

With regard to the line from Medjingert upon Kessa Dagh, I observe that Sir Lintorn Simmons remarks, in his letter of the 10th September last, that, "after much deliberation at Berlin, it was described as a straight line to prevent all possible divergence or disagreement as to its course." This might be taken to imply that no departure from a straight line could be admitted in the frontier here.

But this would be quite contrary to usage, which is to give and take along the general direction of the line, according to the natural features; and I find that Chehab Bey expects this principle of compensation to be applied here, as will, no doubt, the Russian Commissioner, unless instructed to the contrary. Neither of them, probably, is aware of, or would recognize as binding, unless instructed by his Government, the considerations which prevailed at Berlin, and I should be glad, therefore, to be informed of Sir L. Simmons' view upon this point also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 75.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 194. Confidential.)
Vienna, April 30, 1880.

My Lord,

I AM informed that the Austrian Government have directed their Agent at Sophia to address a remonstrance to the Bulgarian Government against the treatment under which the Mahommedans of the Principality have been suffering, and that previous to doing so they communicated their intention to the Russian Government.

I understand that the latter have recognized the existence of sufficient ground for interposition on behalf of these people, but without engaging themselves to join in the remonstrance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 76.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 195. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 1, 1880.

A SHORT time ago the Austro-Hungarian Government called the attention of the Bulgarian Government in a friendly manner to the irregularity of their keeping vessels of war in the Danube, and inviting them voluntarily to get rid of them before the Powers took official notice of their presence.

A telegram from Sophia that has been published in the papers states that the Prince had requested the Emperor of Russia, by whom the vessels were given to him, to take back his present, as the financial state of the Principality makes it inconvenient to provide the expense of their maintenance.

The Austrian Government have no knowledge of this step having been taken by His Highness, but I understand that they would be quite satisfied with the arrangement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 77.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4.)

(No. 194.)
My Lord, *Rome, May* 1, 1880.

WITH reference to the telegram recorded in my despatch No. 182 of the 25th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose herewith a copy of an *aide-mémoire* communicated to the Russian Ambassador (and which Count Maffei has been good enough to give to me) containing the reply of the Italian Government to the proposal of the Russian Government that the revision of the Regulations for the provinces of the Turkish Empire referred to in the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin should be confided to a Special Commission instead of the Commission instituted for Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 77.

Aide-Mémoire pour l'Ambassade de Russie.

Rome, le 28 *Avril*, 1880.

L'ARTICLE XXIII du Traité de Berlin porte, en termes explicites, que les Règlements Organiques pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe doivent être soumis, avant leur promulgation, à la Commission Européenne instituée pour la Roumélie Orientale. Celle-ci n'ayant été, d'autre part, formellement dissoute, bien qu'elle ait cessé de fonctionner depuis plusieurs mois, le Gouvernement du Roi n'a pas cru devoir se refuser à l'invitation que la Sublime Porte vient de lui adresser, ainsi qu'aux autres Grandes Puissances, par un télégramme circulaire. Le Délégué Italien près la Commission Européenne a déjà reçu instruction de se prêter, avec ses collègues, au travail de révision que la Sublime Porte se propose de leur soumettre.

Nous pensons, d'ailleurs, que la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale se trouve, ainsi que le Gouvernement Impérial le désire avec raison, sous la dépendance des Ambassades respectives à Constantinople. Il est évident en outre, à nos yeux, qu'elle est libre d'énoncer, à l'égard des Règlements dont elle va être saisie, toutes observations qui lui paraîtront opportunes, y compris celles relatives à l'omission, de la part de la Sublime Porte, des formes prescrites par le Traité de Berlin pour l'élaboration des Règlements eux-mêmes.

No. 78.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Earl Granville.—(Received May 4.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, 24, *Pall Mall, May* 4, 1880.

WITH reference to two conversations I have held with your Lordship relative to the Commission for Eastern Roumelia, and in pursuance of my promise, I now have the honour to lay before you some remarks on the future labours of that Commission.

As your Lordship is aware, the Commission was created by Articles XVIII and XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. Its first functions were to elaborate a Statute for Eastern Roumelia, as a province endowed with administrative autonomy, taking as a point of departure the laws of the vilayets, and the Protocol of the Eighth Conference of Constantinople.

In the first instance, I will shortly sketch the lines on which the Commission acted. It was determined to form a distinct Government for Eastern Roumelia, to settle that Government on a solid and economical basis, to secure for the Sultan that amount of authority which appertains to a Monarch in Constitutional countries, and for the people the most ample measure of freedom, equality, and self-government, under laws and institutions adapted to local exigencies.

With this view the Governor-General, by Treaty necessarily a Christian, and approved by the Powers, was made, as it were, the Sultan's Minister for Eastern Roumelia. He was to act in two capacities, namely, as the head of the Local Administration, and as the Agent of the Sultan for such rights as were reserved to the Sovereign himself. The people were to be self-taxed, and collect their own taxes, and to maintain their own police and legal Tribunals. In a word, the Local Administration was separate from, and independent of, any control from Constantinople, except that of the Sultan himself. Law and justice were secured, and, as I hope, an equitable Local Administration.

In return, the Sultan was invested with quite as much power as the Queen exercises in her kingdom. The law runs in his name. His sanction, with a limitation of time, is required for the making, alteration, or abrogation of laws. He is the fountain of honour, and appoints the principal officers of the local militia and gendarmerie. His approval is necessary for the nomination of the chief civil officers of the province. He has the power of amnesty and pardon. He is the head of the Posts, Customs, and Telegraphs, the guardian of the frontiers and the diplomatic organ. He has the right of coinage. He receives one-third of the revenues of the province for the purposes of the Central Government.

In drawing up this Statute with great care and elaboration, the Commission not only laid down fundamental principles on every Department of public administration, which could be modified only with the concert of the Powers, but enacted certain transitory laws which could be altered later by the Provincial Assembly as illustrating these principles in detail. If the Statute is open to the charge of being too elaborate, a justification may be found in the desire of the Commission to break the ground for its labours under Article XXIII.

In Eastern Roumelia the Commission was supreme. In the enactment of the Organic Statutes under Article XXIII it has only a consultative voice. But the Commissioners had reason to believe that from the traditional indolence of the Turks, and from other reasons, the Turkish Government would adopt the Roumelian Statute as a grammar or text-book for the other reforms. This view has been justified by events. As soon as the Roumelian Statute had been promulgated, it was placed in the hands of a Commission, which adapted its provisions to the other provinces of European Turkey. It was submitted in this altered shape to the local Commissions, stipulated for in the Treaty of Berlin. These Commissions have reported, and it is to discuss these Reports that the European Commission is again convoked.

I have more than once expressed in the House of Commons and elsewhere, that the only hope of Turkey lies in a complete decentralization. The curse of Turkey has been the Tanzimat, which substituted for local government—which could easily have been reformed and improved—a sham French centralization. Even in France, with an educated and homogeneous people, a general honesty of purpose, a powerful press, easy means of communication, and an elevated public opinion, the system of Prefects and Sub-Prefects is open to very considerable criticism. But in Turkey, with few of these advantages, with dissensions and hatreds of sects, nationalities, and religions, the experiment has been disastrous. Provinces and districts are handed over to the

protégés and minions of the Porte. From them there is no appeal but to their friends and patrons in the capital, and the people of the provinces are as a rule the victims of fanaticism, cynicism, or corruption, injurious equally to Turk and Christian.

It is only just to add that there are numerous exceptions to so sweeping a charge. In Reouf, Achmet Vefyk, Midhat, Carathéodori, Khaireddin, Assim, my late colleague, and other Pashas, are to be found upright and highminded statesmen. But men of this kind can only find fair play when released in a great measure from the trammels of centralization, and brought face to face with the expression of opinion on the part of freely elected local Councils.

I do not wish to intrude, without further invitation from your Lordship, on matters of detail which could be more easily elucidated in conversation. But I believe that in the provisions of the Eastern Roumelian Statute are to be found the germs both of political and financial prosperity for the European provinces of Turkey, and also for the Empire itself.

By the emancipation of the Vacouf and State property large sums might, I think, be found for the present and future necessities of the Government; while the complete equalization of all races and religions would in time obliterate those hatreds which now divide the population and give a hold to the ambitions and intrigues of other countries.

Even before I left Philippopolis there was some evidence of an improved state of things. Waste land round the town was being rapidly covered by buildings, and some Hellenic subjects settled there informed me of their intention of adopting Ottoman nationality, with a view of taking part in the public life of the province.

By assimilating, as far as possible, the remaining provinces of European Turkey to Eastern Roumelia, I believe government would be rendered easier, justice promoted, and equitable administration secured under the Sultan. Should the course of events, however, bring this dynasty to an end in Europe, the inhabitants, secure in liberties already acquired, would with far more difficulty become the dupe or the prey of foreign covetousness or ambition.

It will doubtless be found that in the adaptation of the Statute to the other provinces words have been introduced or altered diminishing the value of its provisions to the people. Against this the Commission must be very much on its guard. The standard must be raised rather than lowered. The Sultan has this security in the other European provinces of his Empire in the fact that he is not, as in Eastern Roumelia, prohibited from keeping his troops there. This prerogative, which I have no desire to see infringed, enables him with greater safety to give the necessary liberties to his people.

I may add that, when at Constantinople, many leading Armenians came to me, begging me to intercede with the British Government for the extension to Armenia of some analogous institutions. They say that Armenia would be satisfied with one-twentieth part of what had been given to the Bulgarians of Roumelia.

Should they interest your Lordship, my despatches on the subject are in the archives of your Department.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 79.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Gennadius, May 4.)

Athènes, le $\frac{5}{17}$ Avril, 1880.

Monsieur,

D'après un télégramme parvenu à ce Ministère, des Albanais Musulmans se concentrèrent dans le village Maxaraki, près de Parga, pour organiser une résistance armée aux décisions du Congrès de Berlin relativement à la rectification des frontières de la Grèce.

A la suite de cette nouvelle mon prédécesseur avait télégraphié au Ministre du Roi à Constantinople pour l'inviter d'attirer sur ces faits l'attention des Représentants des Grandes Puissances.

En réponse, M. Coundouriotí vient de me faire savoir que l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre a demandé des informations à ce sujet à son Consul à Preveza et que celui-ci lui a exposé qu'en effet des rassemblements pareils ont eu lieu dans le village sus-nommé, mais que l'accord n'a pu s'établir parmi les assistants, la moitié d'entre eux ayant témoigné des dispositions favorables à l'union de leur pays avec la Grèce.

Il a été aussi question de piller Parga, mais cette proposition n'ayant pas été unanimement acceptée, on a dû y renoncer, et la séance a abouti à des scènes tumultueuses entre les assistants.

Il résulte de ces faits que, malgré les efforts de la Porte, qui encourage toutes ces démonstrations, il y a même parmi les Albanais Musulmans un parti considérable qui désire l'union avec la Grèce.

Vous voudrez bien faire de ces renseignements, dont la source exclut tout soupçon de partialité, l'usage que vous croirez convenable.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 80.

M. Tricoupi to M. Gennadius.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by M. Gennadius, May 4.)

Monsieur, *Athènes, le $\frac{19}{7}$ Avril*, 1880.

FAISANT suite à ma dépêche du $\frac{5}{17}$ courant, je m'empresse de vous informer que, d'après un télégramme que je viens de recevoir, le Gouverneur de Preveza s'est rendu à Margariti, où il a convoqué les habitants Musulmans et quelques Chrétiens et, au moyen de toutes sortes de menaces, il a contraint ces derniers de signer, conjointement avec les Musulmans, une déclaration, par laquelle ils repoussent l'union avec la Grèce.

Nous sommes convaincus que les Cabinets Européens non-seulement n'attacheront aucune valeur à des déclarations arrachées par la force, mais qu'ils y verront, au contraire, une nouvelle preuve des machinations par lesquelles on cherche à donner le change sur le véritable esprit qui anime ces populations.

Veuillez faire de ces renseignements l'usage que vous croirez convenable.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) CH. TRICOUPI.

No. 81.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 26 Avril*, 1880.

EN me référant à mes précédentes communications sur la situation déplorable faite aux Musulmans de la Bulgarie, je vous transmets ci-près la traduction d'un télégramme que je viens de recevoir des habitants de Kustendil.

Veuillez communiquer ce télégramme au Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité, afin qu'il veuille bien continuer à porter son attention sur le malheureux sort des Musulmans de la Principauté.

Télégramme adressé au Ministère des Affaires Etrangères par plusieurs Musulmans de Kustendil, en date du 29 Mars (v. s.), 1880.

Les souffrances auxquelles nous sommes assujetties sont connues de tous. Nos oppresseurs ont, dans ces derniers dix jours, doublé leurs vexations. La vérification de nos possessions et de nos biens vient d'être suspendue. Nous sommes au désepoir puisque nous nous trouvons dans la saison propre à l'ensemencement. Nos champs et nos fermes sont, en notre présence, affermés à des entrepreneurs par ordre de la police locale, et nous continuons à ne rien recevoir de leur produit. Du reste, aurions-nous été désireux de nous en défaire qu'on ne nous aurait pas permis de les céder aux habitants des autres villages. Nous sommes presque cernés ici: il nous est impossible d'aller nulle part pour visiter nos biens et nos propriétés. Les maux que nous endurons sont indescriptibles, et humainement il est impossible de les supporter. Les Bulgares ont ouvertement l'intention de ne pas restituer nos biens. Le régime d'oppression qu'ils ont inauguré à notre égard paraît évidemment destiné à effrayer ceux de nos compatriotes qui voudraient se rendre ici, et à les détourner de leur projet. Nous sommes continuellement dans l'alarme. Nous avons recours en dernier lieu aux sentiments bienveillants de votre Excellence, et nous la supplions de prendre notre état en sérieuse considération et de compatir à notre malheureux sort.

No. 82.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 29 Avril*, 1880.

Le mémorandum signé entre la Sublime Porte et le Gouvernement Monténégrin vous est connu dans tous ses détails. Des instructions précises, conformes à son contenu, ont été transmises au Gouverneur-Général de Scutari, qui a été chargé de son exécution. Cette exécution devait avoir lieu dans les dix jours succédant à la signature du dit mémorandum. En effet, le Jeudi, à 9 heures à la Turque, les positions occupées par nos troupes ont été evacuées. Cette heure avait été fixée au préalable, et communiquée au Commandant de Podgoritza, conformément aux stipulations du mémorandum. Aujourd'hui le Commandant Monténégrin, qui ne s'est pas hâté de prendre possession des positions évacuées, soulève une série d'objections, dont deux sont reproduits dans un pro-memoriâ qui a été communiqué au nom des six Puissances à la Sublime Porte. Ces deux objections sont les suivantes, à savoir: que les instructions du Gouvernement Impérial n'ont pas été envoyées à temps, et que le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari n'a pas observé le délai des vingt-quatre heures qui devaient précéder l'évacuation.

Nous y avons répondu, (1) que le Commandant Monténégrin n'a élevé aucune objection contre la fixation de l'heure de l'évacuation, reconnaissant ainsi que les huit heures que lui restaient encore étaient suffisantes pour amener les troupes sur les lieux; (2) qu'en réalité, les troupes Monténégrines sont arrivées sur les lieux alors que les troupes Ottomanes occupaient encore les positions à évacuer, que l'évacuation n'a été réellement effectuée qu'à l'heure précise qui avait été indiquée; et (3) que si les troupes Monténégrines n'ont point pris possession des positions lorsque les troupes Ottomanes les ont abandonnées, ce n'est point en raison du malentendu qui s'est produit dans la fixation de l'heure de l'évacuation, mais par suite d'une circonstance absolument indépendante de la volonté des autorités Ottomanes, laquelle circonstance se serait produite dans tous les cas, et qui était inévitable à la suite des Proclamations qui avaient fait connaître prématurément dans toute la contrée les stipulations du mémorandum.

A cela j'ajoute, pour votre information, les considérations suivantes:—La Sublime Porte a envoyé à temps au Gouverneur-Général de Scutari le mémorandum *in extenso* et des instructions qui ont été également communiquées aux Représentants des six Puissances, et qui prouvent jusqu'à l'evidence sa bonne foi. D'après un Rapport d'Izzet Pasha, appuyé par la réponse du Commandant Monténégrin de Podgoritza, et par le procès-verbal de M. Tonietti, Drogman du Consulat d'Italie, l'évacuation des points occupés par nos troupes a eu lieu exactement à l'époque fixée.

La seule contestation possible est donc celle que l'on soulève maintenant à propos de l'heure à laquelle la lettre d'Izzet Pacha a été remise au Commandant de Podgoritza. Ce retard, qui constitue une question d'appréciation, n'a pu influencer nullement les mouvements du Commandant Monténégrin, qui a trouvé l'espace compris entre le moment de la réception de l'avis et l'heure que cet avis fixait pour l'évacuation, suffisant pour exécuter ses mouvements. Je m'explique: le messager d'Izzet Pacha, accompagné de M. Tonietti, est parti, sans nul doute, de Scutari dans l'après-midi du Mercredi. Des circonstances fortuites et indépendantes de leur volonté ont fait en sorte que le voyage, très-court d'ordinaire, a duré plus longtemps, et ils ne sont arrivés chez le Voïvode Monténégrin à Podgoritza que le lendemain matin, Jeudi, à 1 heure à la Turque. Le Voïvode reconnaît avoir reçu, le Jeudi, à 1 heure, la lettre d'Izzet Pacha, et il l'en remercie. Il se met en mouvement, et il arrive à temps pour occuper les positions que notre armée devait évacuer à 9 heures à la Turque; il voit les Albanais réunis bien arriérés,* et il s'arrête. Je n'examine pas maintenant pourquoi il s'est arrêté, et si c'était là un parti pris en temps opportun. Ce qu'il importe d'établir aujourd'hui, c'est que ce n'est point la réception que l'on déclare comme tardive de l'avis d'Izzet Pacha, qui a causé cet arrêt dans la marche du Commandant Monténégrin. La preuve en est que, s'il avait considéré les huit heures qui restaient entre la réception de l'avis et l'heure de l'évacuation, ... † il aurait dû le déclarer, protester, et ne pas se mettre en mouvement. Izzet Pacha, fidèle à ses engagements, et ne recevant aucun avis contraire, évacue à l'heure fixe les positions. Si le Commandant Monténégrin lui avait fait parvenir des observations, et lui avait déclaré que les huit heures ne lui suffisaient pas pour faire ses mouvements, il n'aurait pas procédé à l'évacuation, et aurait demandé des instructions à Constantinople. Voilà la réponse que le Gouvernement Impérial fait à l'unique sujet de contestation qui puisse être soulevé,

* Peut-être, "armés."

† Peut-être il manque les mots, "comme insuffisantes."

et comment nous repoussons le reproche injuste que les Monténégrins adressent à nos agents dans cette circonstance.

Je vous prie de vous pénétrer de ces vérités, et de tenir un langage conforme à qui de droit.

No. 83.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 2 Mai*, 1880.

REÇU télégramme.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien assurer son Excellence Lord Granville des sentiments du Gouvernement Impérial envers le Gouvernement Anglais et des sympathies constantes et traditionnelles qui n'ont jamais cessé d'unir les deux nations.

La personnalité de sa Seigneurie est une garantie de plus de la bienveillance du Gouvernement Britannique à notre égard, et nous prions le noble Lord de croire à toutes les joies que nous avons ressenties à sa nomination. Les paroles dont il s'est servi dans sa conversation avec votre Excellence nous inspirent un nouveau courage, et seront un germe fécond en heureux résultats pratiques.

Votre Excellence étant, par mes précédentes communications, parfaitement au courant sur tous les détails, et connaissant parfaitement les vues du Gouvernement Impérial sur les trois questions qu'elle doit traiter avec sa Seigneurie, je juge inutile de m'étendre sur ce sujet.

No. 84.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 4.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 3 Mai*, 1880.

VOTRE Excellence a peut-être appris qu'un Décret du Bureau de la Presse a supprimé le "Levant Herald." Au lendemain même de cette mesure, Mr. Whitaker, propriétaire de cette feuille, faisait publier sans autorisation aucune, et livrait à la circulation un article empreint d'une malveillance manifeste et de nature à troubler l'esprit public. En conséquence, le Gouvernement Impérial résolu, conformément à l'Article 8 du Règlement sur les Imprimeries, de procéder à la fermeture de l'imprimerie de Mr. Whitaker. Mais l'Ambassadeur Britannique, invité à ordonner l'assistance Consulaire, s'y refusait, en alléguant que l'action administrative en cette circonstance était arbitraire. Or, la Sublime Porte s'appuie sur les Articles 6 et 9 des Règlements sur les Imprimeries qui sont explicites et formels, et persiste à demander l'assistance Consulaire. Des publications d'une nature tout-à-fait séditieuse continuent à être publiées au moyen de la même imprimerie. Je viens d'adresser une dernière note en priant Sir Henry Layard de ne plus permettre qu'un défi scandaleux soit jeté chaque jour sous ses auspices à la loi et à l'autorité, et je l'ai prié de ne point nous mettre dans la nécessité d'agir sans l'assistance Consulaire. L'affaire en est là, et j'ai cru devoir en informer votre Excellence pour qu'elle soit prévenue de cet incident fâcheux, et qu'elle en fasse le sujet des démarches que dans sa sagesse elle jugera opportunes et utiles.

No. 85.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 4.)

M. le Comte, *Vienne, le 28 Avril*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence la copie d'une dépêche au Comte Kálnoky, qui lui fera connaître la manière de voir du Gouvernement Impérial et Royal, au sujet de la sanction à donner à quelques-uns des actes de délimitation élaborés par les Commissions Européennes en vertu du Traité de Berlin.

Votre Excellence est en possession de la correspondance antérieure que nous avons eue à ce sujet avec le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg. Il lui est donc connu que nous nous sommes déclarés prêts à abandonner la réserve que nous avions formulée précédemment et à nous associer aux Puissances si elles tombaient d'accord à procéder immédiatement à

la ratification des actes énumérés dans la Circulaire Russe. Vous voudrez bien vous informer confidentiellement si le Cabinet Britannique a reçu communication analogue de la part de l'Ambassade de Russie et de quelle manière il compte y répondre.

A cette occasion, votre Excellence voudra aussi faire mention des considérations pour lesquelles nous aimerions mieux que la sanction de ces actes fût prononcée au moyen d'un échange de notes formelles plutôt au lieu d'une simple copie d'une Circulaire. En exposant notre manière de voir vous pourrez aussi vous servir du projet de note qui se trouve parmi les annexes.

En priant votre Excellende de m'informer de l'avis du Cabinet Britannique, je vous renouvelle, &c.

(Signé) HAYMERLE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 85.

Baron Haymerle to Count Kálnoky.

Vienne, le 27 Avril 1880.

M. D'OUBRIL m'a communiqué la copie d'une dépêche Circulaire dans laquelle le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg déclare de confirmer quelques-uns des actes de délimitation qui ont été élaborés par la Commission Européenne en vertu du Traité de Berlin, et dont la sanction a déjà formé précédemment l'objet d'un échange d'idées entre nos deux Gouvernements. Votre Excellence trouvera sous ce pli une copie de cette communication.

Ainsi que j'ai déjà eu l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence, le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal n'ayant pas d'objection contre les trois actes en question, est prêt à les revêtir de sa sanction, du moment que les autres Puissances sont d'accord à en faire de même. Le mode de procédure tel qu'il a été proposé à ce sujet par la dite Circulaire du Cabinet Russe et qui consiste en un échange de notes entre les Cabinets, nous semble aussi convenir le mieux au but qu'on se propose. Nous pensons que comme il s'agit de consacrer des actes importants qui forment un complément du Traité de Berlin, une communication plus formelle serait mieux appropriée à la solennité de la circonstance que la copie d'une Circulaire qui, par l'absence de toute signature, n'a pas un caractère absolument officiel. Tout en reconnaissant que la procédure suivie par M. d'Oubril répond à la première proposition de la Porte, nous croyons devoir soumettre à l'appréciation du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg la considération qui nous suggère à nous en tenir au mode proposé par la Circulaire du 17 Janvier; c'est-à-dire à un véritable échange de notes portant la signature des Chefs de Cabinet ou des Représentants des Puissances, autorisés par leur Gouvernement à cet effet. Pour mieux définir ma pensée, j'ai l'honneur de transmettre à votre Excellence le projet d'une note conçue dans cet ordre d'idées. Veuillez le montrer à M. de Giers, et lui demander s'il ne partage pas mon impression qu'il convient d'adopter dans cette circonstance ce procédé un peu plus formel. Si M. de Giers y adhère je ne tarderai pas à transmettre à votre Excellence une note contenant notre Déclaration.

Recevez, &c.

Inclosure 2 in No. 85.

Draft of Note.

LES Actes suivants élaborés par les Commissions de Délimitation, instituées en vertu du Traité de Berlin, savoir:

1. L'Acte en date du 14 Août, 1879, fixant la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Roumélie Orientale;

2. L'Acte en date du 20 Septembre, 1879, fixant (*a*) la frontière Danubienne de la Bulgarie; (*b*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Turquie (Macédoine); (*c*) la frontière entre la Bulgarie et la Serbie, et enfin—

3. L'Acte descriptif de la nouvelle frontière de Serbie, ayant été examinés par les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin et trouvés conformes aux dispositions de ce Traité; et les Puissances étant convenues de prononcer la sanction de ces Actes au moyen d'un échange de notes entre les Cabinets;

Le Soussigné, Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Autriche-Hongrie, a l'honneur de déclarer par la présente que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal confirme et sanctionne les Actes énumérés ci-dessus.

Vienne, le

No. 86.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 4.

I AM authorized to communicate confidentially to Her Majesty's Government two despatches: one addressed by Baron d'Oubril to Baron Haymerle, and containing a proposition from the Russian Government relative to the appointment of a European Commission in Constantinople, *ad hoc*, in order to discuss the new Regulations for the Turkish provinces in Europe according to Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty; the other written by Baron Haymerle to Count Kálnoky, informing him, in reply to the Russian proposition, that according to our views the elaboration of those Regulations belongs not to a new, but to the former, and still existing, Eastern Roumelian Commission.

Belgrave Square, May 4, 1880.

Inclosure 1 in No. 86.

M. de Giers to M. d'Oubril.

(Circulaire.) *St. Pétersbourg, le 3 Avril,* 1880.

NOUS avons reçu une communication probablement circulaire de la Porte demandant que les Délégués à la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale soient instruits de se réunir à Constantinople pour donner leur avis sur les nouveaux Règlements élaborés pour les provinces Chrétiennes de la Turquie d'Europe, d'après l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin.

Comme d'une part la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale se trouve dissoute et que d'autre part les formes prescrites par le Traité de Berlin pour l'élaboration de Règlements analogues à celui de Crète pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe qui n'ont pas été dotées d'une organisation particulière, sont loin d'avoir été observées, nous croyons que les nouveaux Règlements devraient être l'objet d'un examen sérieux et approfondi de la part d'une Commission Européenne nommée *ad hoc* et qui se réunirait à Constantinople sous le contrôle des Ambassades.

Veuillez demander à ce sujet l'opinion du Gouvernement auprès duquel vous êtes accrédité et nous la transmettre par voie télégraphique.

Recevez, &c

Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

Baron Haymerle to Count Kálnoky.

Vienne, le 30 Avril, 1880.

DE même que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, nous avons reçu la communication de la Sublime Porte constatant son désir de voir la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale se réunir de nouveau à Constantinople, afin que, conformément à l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, le Gouvernement Ottoman puisse en prendre l'avis sur les nouveaux Règlements qu'il s'agit d'introduire dans celles des provinces de la Turquie d'Europe pour lesquelles le dit Traité n'a pas prévu une organisation particulière.

N'hésitant pas à donner suite à cette demande de la Sublime Porte, nous avions chargé M. le Comte Dubsky d'informer le Ministre Ottoman des Affaires Etrangères, ainsi que les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin à Constantinople, que le Gouvernement Impérial et Royal a résolu de déléguer le Conseiller d'Ambassade, M. le Baron de Kosjek, à la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale, afin que, de concert avec les Délégués des autres Puissances Signataires, il procède à l'examen des Règlements en question, en remplacement de M. de Kállay que ses nouvelles fonctions retiennent ici.

Ce n'est qu'après avoir répondu de cette manière à la communication de la Sublime Porte, que nous avons été informés par son Excellence M. d'Oubril de la proposition du Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg, développée dans la Circulaire ci-jointe en copie, et d'après laquelle les nouveaux Règlements dont il s'agit devraient faire l'objet d'un examen sérieux et approfondi de la part d'une Commission Européenne nommée *ad hoc* et qui se réunirait à Constantinople sous le contrôle des Ambassades.

Cette proposition part de la supposition que la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale se trouve être dissoute.

Or, en conformité de l'Article XXIII la dite Commission étant appelée à donner son avis sur les nouveaux Règlements destinés à être appliqués aux autres provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, il est évident qu'elle ne saurait se dissoudre avant d'avoir accompli également cette partie de sa tâche.

La Commission était du même avis et c'est surtout le Délégué de Russie qui, à plusieurs reprises, a insisté sur la nécessité de l'exécution de l'Article XXIII, en demandant aux Commissaires Ottomans de préciser l'époque à laquelle la Commission serait appelée à se prononcer sur les Règlements prévus par cet Article.

En terminant ses travaux relatifs à l'élaboration et l'application du Statut Organique pour la Roumélie Orientale, la Commission a décidé—le compte-rendu de sa dernière séance du 4 Septembre, 1879, en fait foi—de suspendre ses réunions jusqu'à ce qu'elles seraient convoquées de nouveau en vertu d'un accord entre la Sublime Porte et les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople.

L'institution d'une nouvelle Commission nommée *ad hoc* sous le contrôle des Ambassades à Constantinople telle que la Russie le propose sortant du cadre du Traité de Berlin, elle nécessiterait, pour en déterminer la compétence, une entente préalable entre les Puissances Signataires, dont les négociations pourraient occasionner des retards regrettables dans l'œuvre des réformes projetées par les stipulations de Berlin.

La connaissance approfondie de l'organisation de l'Empire Ottoman et des besoins de ses populations que la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale a eu l'occasion d'acquérir par ses longs et multiples travaux, paraissent d'ailleurs, même du point de vue pratique, la rendre plus apte que toute autre à se prononcer sur l'organisation que la Sublime Porte se propose d'introduire dans ses provinces Européennes.

Quant aux formalités prescrites pour l'élaboration des nouveaux Règlements par l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin, il paraît que la Sublime Porte n'a pas manqué d'en tenir compte, ainsi que le prouvent les rapports qui nous sont parvenus de nos Consuls à Salonique, Andrinople, et Janina, et dont il résulte que ces Règlements y ont été sérieusement discutés par des Commissions spéciales dans lesquelles tous les éléments des populations de ces provinces ont été représentés; du reste, c'est là une question dont la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale aura à s'occuper, si elle le juge nécessaire.

En regard à ces considérations, il ne nous semble guère ni possible, ni pratique d'adhérer à une altération d'une stipulation du Traité de Berlin et de revenir sur la réponse que nous avons déjà faite à la demande de la Sublime Porte concernant la réunion de la Commission Européenne pour la Roumélie Orientale.

Nous avons appris depuis que le Gouvernement Allemand, se conformant également au désir de la Sublime Porte, a nommé M. de Braunschweig son Délégué à la dite Commission. Nous aimons à croire que le Cabinet de St. Pétersbourg voudra bien se ranger au même point de vue et instruire son Délégué à se réunir avec ses collègues de la Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale à Constantinople.

Désirant, autant que le Gouvernement de Russie, que les nouveaux Règlements, dont les provinces de la Turquie visées par l'Article XXIII doivent être dotées, deviennent l'objet d'un examen sérieux et conforme à l'importance du but que les stipulations de Berlin avaient en vue, nous sommes persuadés que les Délégués des Puissances Signataires y consacreront toute l'attention que la tâche comporte.

Veuillez, M. le Comte, donner lecture de la présente dépêche à M. de Giers, et, sur son désir, lui en laisser copie.

Recevez, &c.

No. 87.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 211.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1880.*
(Telegraphic.)

REPRESENTATIVES of Signatory Powers sent in a collective note to-day, demanding a categorical reply to their note of the 24th ultimo, as to the reoccupation by the Turkish troops of the positions to be surrendered to Montenegro.

No. 88.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 4.*)

(No. 212.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1880.*

YOUR telegram of the 23rd April.

Two Financial Inspectors appointed to Aidin Vilayet—Ali Rizah and a Frenchman—some six months since. Results at present unknown.

No. 89.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 4.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to suggest that if the Commissioner of the second section is not coming to Constantinople, the Russian Government should be urged to empower Stebnitsky, Commissioner of the first section, expected by his *locum tenens*, Unepow, to arrive about the 9th instant, in order to endeavour to settle the disputed points in the first section, to deal at once with the question of the point west of Karaourgan, which belongs to both sections, in conjunction with me and our Turkish colleague. This is our only chance of speedy completion of work. Will Russian Government inform me who is to be the Commissioner of the second section? If Zelenoi is not coming here the Karaourgan question should be postponed till Armenian frontier is finished, or till we meet there.

No. 90.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 4, 3 P.M.*)

(No. 48. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 4, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 77, I gathered from Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs' language yesterday that he would prefer a temporizing policy towards the Albanians, rather than the adoption of measures likely to lead to a collision.

He believes that the difficulty of getting supplies, and the calls of their different occupations at this time of year, will gradually lead to the dispersion of the Albanians, when the positions now occupied by them might be taken possession of by the Montenegrins with comparative ease.

No. 91.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880, 3 P.M.*

CAN you obtain confirmation of the intelligence reported in your telegram of yesterday from any other sources?

No. 92.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880, 7·10 P.M.*

I HAVE received the following figures from Sir E. Hamley:—

[See No. 89.]

Pray communicate his views to the Russian Government, and report what steps they are likely to take in consequence.

No. 93.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 304.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880.*

MUSURUS PASHA spoke to me this afternoon at some length upon the negotiations for the rectification of the Greek frontier.

He said that this question was not touched by the Treaty of San Stefano. It had been raised at Berlin, but had been dealt with in such a manner as not to bind the Porte to any specific concession. Notwithstanding that the Porte was not under any Treaty obligation in regard to this matter, it was ready to do what was in its power to meet the views of the European Courts. He urged, however, that his Government ought not to be pressed in a manner which would be dangerous to the Turkish Empire in its present state.

His Excellency went on to explain that Lord Salisbury had proposed that a Commission should be appointed by the mediatory Powers to advise the two parties as to the new line of frontier to be adopted, and that this Commission should examine the question on the spot. The Porte had objected, on the ground that if the Commission proceeded through the districts immediately concerned in the negotiation, its presence would be the cause of disorders which might lead to dangerous results. He himself had suggested as an alternative that the Commission should meet at Constantinople; but he was not aware that this plan had been approved at Constantinople.

His Excellency added that the Treaty did not confer any right upon the Powers beyond that of mediation; that they, therefore, could not, without previous consultation with Turkey and indeed with Greece also, settle that a particular frontier-line should be adopted.

I said, in reply, that I could not undertake to enter into a controversy with his Excellency upon the statement that he had made, or the views he had expressed. The material point at the present moment was that a proposal had been made by the British Government which had received the assent of all the Powers of Europe. From the Porte nothing had been received in answer to it but objections, which might be valid, but which also might be only for the purposes of delay. It seemed to me to be against the best interests of Turkey that these important questions should thus drag on, and as far as I could judge during the short time I had been in office, that was the opinion of all the rest of Europe.

In my own opinion, if the Porte did not at once either agree to Lord Salisbury's proposal, or propose some practical modification of it, it was not impossible that the Commission would meet in some place beyond the limits of the Turkish Empire.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 94.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 307.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880.*

MUSURUS PASHA delivered to me this afternoon the telegram, of which I inclose a copy, justifying the conduct of the Porte in regard to the exchange of territory on the Montenegrin frontier, and he made some observations in support of the arguments contained in it.

I answered that the fact remained that whereas the arrangement between Turkey and Montenegro contained a stipulation that twenty-four hours' notice should be given to the Montenegrin commanders before the territory to be surrendered was evacuated by the Turkish forces, only eight hours' notice was practically given; that, moreover, the Montenegrins found that they had not merely to deal with the inhabitants of the ceded districts, but with large numbers of armed men, subjects of the Porte, coming from the neighbouring mountains. It was for the Porte to say whether it would control these subjects of the Sultan, or whether it was unable to do so.

Musurus Pasha said that he believed the Porte had not the power to check the movement which had commenced, but he added that he had no authority to make such an admission.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 95.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 55.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880.*

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called upon me this afternoon by appointment, and said he was instructed to inquire how Her Majesty's Government were disposed to view the question of a rectification of the Greek frontier. He said that the most lamentable results were arising from the unsettled and disorganized state of the districts on the Turkish side of the frontier, and that a speedy settlement was urgently required.

I told M. Gennadius what I had already said to the Representatives of other Powers as to the policy of the Government with regard to the Treaty of Berlin. They had found that Treaty an accomplished fact, and their anxiety was that all the questions connected with it, which still remained open, should be speedily and satisfactorily settled.

The question now pending between Greece and Turkey was, I said, one which in the interest of both countries it was desirable to bring to a solution. In order to promote this result, Her Majesty's Government looked for moderation on the part of Greece as well as for a corresponding spirit of concession on the part of Turkey.

M. Gennadius said that he thought he could refer without misgiving to the moderation which had been shown by the Greek Government throughout the negotiation as an earnest of their future conduct.

M. Gennadius communicated to me the two despatches, of which I inclose copies, as to the encouragement given by the Turkish authorities to demonstrations on the part of the Mussulman and Albanian populations on the frontier.

I inquired whether he had received any intelligence of the intended irruption of Greek bands into Turkish territory, but he said that he possessed no information to that effect.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 96.

*Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.**

(No. 452.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 4, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government consider that it is an object of European interest that the delay which has occurred in the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be put an end to, and that this can best be effected by the united efforts of the Powers.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to invite the co-operation of the French Government and of the other Powers to obtain this result, and I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will propose to M. de Freycinet that the French Ambassador at Constantinople should be instructed, in concert with the Representatives of the other Powers, to address an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte, requiring the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

The Porte has for some time had before it a proposal, made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had received the assent of the Powers, that an International Commission should proceed to the frontier provinces to determine the rectification of the Greek boundary. The Porte has pointed out the difficulties which might be encountered by such a Commission, but has not given any definitive reply. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that it should now be called upon to do so without delay.

The state of things on the Montenegrin frontier requires even more pressing attention. The Turkish authorities have failed to carry out the agreement entered into with Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the 18th April, and have allowed the frontier positions to be occupied by the Albanians, and a collision might at any time occur between the latter and the Montenegrin troops. The Porte should be required to state specifically its intentions as to the Montenegrin frontier, and to bring the arrangement into which it has entered into immediate practical execution.

* Similar despatches were addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Berlin, Vienna, St. Petersburgh, and Rome.

By the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds, and to periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Porte to make known any steps which it may have taken under this Article, nor have any measures been adopted for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers. The Reports which Her Majesty's Government have received show that the state of Armenia is deplorable, and they cannot think that this Article should be permitted any longer to remain a dead letter. They believe that it is only by the exercise of united pressure that the Porte can be induced to fulfil its duty in this respect, and they consider that the due execution of the Article should be at once demanded, and the Porte be called upon to state explicitly what the steps are which it has taken in compliance with this provision of the Treaty.

You will read this despatch to M. de Freycinet, and leave a copy with him, requesting to be informed, at his early convenience, whether he is willing to give instructions in a similar sense to the French Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 97.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 78. Political.)

Scutari, April 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE satisfaction of having foreseen for weeks past the course which affairs would assume in North Albania is not sufficient to counterbalance the regret I feel at having been unable for a single moment to induce a pause for an examination of my fears, when, perhaps, a means might have been found to avert the very difficulties which the hurried proposal of Count Corti and the mediation of Italy was intended to remedy.

As your Lordship is aware, from my Reports Nos. 62 and 66 of the 12th and 14th instant from Cettinjé, I had, however, by the unhesitating manner in which I had expressed my belief to Prince Nicholas and the Montenegrin Government that the Albanians had been too much worked upon by secret political agents to accept quietly the surrender of any portion of their territory, been able to obtain an assurance from His Highness that the greatest circumspection would be shown by the Montenegrin forces in advancing to receive from the Turkish commanders the ceded positions, and it is, probably, through the prudence displayed by the Montenegrin troops in immediately withdrawing to within their old lines as soon as they observed on the 22nd instant the manœuvre by which they had been confronted by a host of irresponsible and wild Albanians that, for the moment, no serious collisions between the two peoples have yet occurred.

But I fear it will not be sufficient for Montenegro to show that the lesson received at Gusinjé has been taken to heart, and to refuse to snatch from the Albanians the territory for which the Porte has supplied it with legally executed title-deeds.

In my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd February last, I explained to your Lordship the undefined belief which prevailed among the Albanians that the Turkish Government would be content to be replaced in this province by a native administration, and in my Report No 70 of the 18th instant, I announced that my warnings that resistance to the execution of the Agreement passed between Turkey and Montenegro meant rebellion against the Sultan, had been met by an acceptance of this definition of their conduct by the Albanians.

The retreat of the Montenegrin force to the Podgoritza lines, and the knowledge that Prince Nicholas has determined to claim his rights by peaceable means, have in no way stopped the warlike preparations going on here. The alarm of the native soil being in danger has been telegraphed without hindrance through the Government wires to all parts of North and North-east Albania, and volunteers are arriving hourly from all directions. There is no need for their disguising their movements; the authorities make no opposition whatever to their proceeding to the front. They have not to find their way there by a tedious land journey; they are allowed to embark on an Austrian steamer hired for the purpose by the Albanian league, or in native boats, at the custom-house quays, and

proceed by the Lake to the landing, where General Hadji Osman Pasha can watch their arrival from the new positions which he has taken up at Castrati.

Eight thousand okes of bread are daily dispatched to the volunteers from the Scutari bakeries; money contributions are paid in by all householders to a well-known Roman Catholic native merchant, who has been constituted the Treasurer of the League.

The Chief of the Police, Hodo Bey, and all the Mahommedan notables left for the front the day it was known the surrender of territory to Montenegro was to be effected, on the plea that they were to exert themselves in preventing any resistance on the part of the natives, but it was well understood that Hodo Bey had been long before selected as the leader of these natives; and now the Governor-General explains that the Chief of the Police is detained as a hostage in the insurgent camp, where he will have occasion to notice some of his late officers and gendarmes, who have also joined the so-called rebels.

Prenk Bib Doda, the chief of the Mirdite Chiefs, who had been kept in Scutari for the last two years almost as a State prisoner, was suddenly, quite recently, overwhelmed with attentions by the authorities, and now he has been permitted publicly to return to Mirdicia, for the purpose of raising his mountaineers as a contingent to swell the host opposite to Podgoritza.

All these preparations, I fear, as I have already said, will render unavailing the determination of the Montenegrins to avoid hostilities with the Albanians, who, as their numbers increase, and the difficulties of keeping themselves long supplied with provisions become apparent, will lose patience, and will be tempted to prove their strength against Podgoritza.

I am unable to comprehend the object of the Turkish authorities in having permitted matters to progress in the manner I have described. I can only assert that I challenge my information being questioned on the spot.

I believe, however, that the enthusiasm which exists to a most remarkable degree among the Roman Catholic Albanians is not solely developed by a determination to prevent any of their country falling into Slav hands, but that it also is aroused by a secret conviction that a favourable opportunity has presented itself for shaking off the Ottoman yoke; and I have observed, much to my surprise, that this feeling is not unknown to the Mussulman Albanians.

I have been able to question a Mahommedan Chief from Gusinjé, who had come here with a message to the League from Ali Pasha. I inquired whether it was true that the Porte was going to reassert its authority at Gusinjé by sending two battalions there. The reply was, that not a hundred times two battalions would be allowed to show themselves even at Ipek and Jacova.

The Mussulman Chief said the Albanians had had enough of Ottoman politics and government, and that the Sultan must rest content to be prayed for once a-day at mid-day prayer by Mahommedan Arnauts.

Before concluding a Report, for the length of which I have to solicit your Lordship's indulgence, and the substance of which has been mostly telegraphed by me, I venture to inform your Lordship, confidentially, that the Italian and French Consuls are believed here to be secretly supporting the present Albanian movement, but, beyond the existence of this impression, I have no proof of their doing so.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 98.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, May 4, 1880, *midnight.*

I AM trying to get Russian Government to consent to General Hamley's suggestions, but Giers is always compelled to refer matter to Miliutine, and this loses a day. They are evidently bent on finishing the Turco-Russian delimitation before commencing at Karaourgan. I have hinted at possibility, if there is no prospect of an early commencement at Karaourgan, of General Hamley's return to England.

No. 99.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 5.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 4, 1880, midnight.*

EMPEROR is very pleased with the language you have held about Montenegrin difficulty. Russian Ambassador at Constantinople has received orders to act in concert with his colleagues in pressing the Porte to fulfil its engagements. The reply in answer to my queries as to what ulterior course may recommend itself to Russia has been approved by the Emperor to-day, and will reach me to-morrow in time for the messenger.

No. 100.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 198.) *Rome, May 2, 1880.*

My Lord,

I LOST no time, on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 51, in communicating with the Minister for Foreign Affairs in order to ascertain the views of the Italian Government relative to the course to be pursued in view of the failure of the Turkish Government to fulfil its engagements towards Montenegro in regard to the cession of territory.

I had already acquainted M. Cairoli, who called upon me yesterday, with the substance of the reply of the Turkish Government to the collective note of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, as recorded in your Lordship's telegram No. 47, and which apparently had not yet reached him, and I also informed his Excellency that your Lordship had instructed Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to insist upon the Porte giving an answer as to whether they intended to order the Turkish troops to reoccupy the territory they had evacuated, to which his Excellency replied that he would at once send an instruction in the same sense to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople.

I gathered, in the course of further conversation with M. Cairoli, that the information received by the Italian Government went to confirm the impression of premeditated bad faith on the part of the Turkish Commanders. One of them—his Excellency did not mention his name, or the place—instead of giving up the position he occupied to the Montenegrin force which had come to occupy it, deliberately went over with his troops to the Albanian camp.

When I called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs to-day, M. Cairoli was attending a Cabinet Council, but I saw Count Maffei, with whom I had previously communicated as to the object of my visit, who was good enough to read to me an instruction which had been sent last night to the Italian Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople. It stated that the explanation given in the Turkish Circular, which had been communicated by the Turkish Minister here, did not appear at all satisfactory to the Italian Government. The Turkish Government, it went on to say, ought to feel the responsibility now weighing on it, and to hasten to put an end to a situation the danger of which is increasing every day. It was necessary that the Porte should scrupulously put in execution the agreement entered into with Montenegro by causing the Turkish troops to reoccupy the positions with the view to their regular cession to the Principality.

The Chargé d'Affaires is directed to act in concert with his colleagues of England and France and of the other Powers in order to attain the desired end. He is to warn the Porte that it is a question of supreme interest for Turkey, and that any delay may have the most disastrous consequences.

I think it right to mention that Count Corti, who arrived in Rome this afternoon, and was good enough to call upon me soon afterwards, takes a most serious view of the Montenegrin affair, and seems to think the Porte will lack the power, even if it should have the will, to make its troops act against the Albanians with the view to the reoccupation of the territory which has been given up and is now in the possession of the latter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 101.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, May 6.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{22 \text{ Avril}}{4 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

L'AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre a été chargé par Lord Granville de nous demander notre opinion sur la marche à adopter en face des complications imminentes entre les Albanais et les Monténégrins.

Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements, ont itérativement et catégoriquement insisté, par note collective, sur la réoccupation immédiate par les troupes Turques des positions dévolues au Monténégro et sur leur remise régulière aux autorités Monténégrines, conformément au Protocole sanctionné par les Puissances.

Vu les hésitations du Gouvernement Turc, l'urgence de la situation, et le danger d'une agression Albanaise contre le Monténégro, nous proposons une déclaration collective des Cabinets à Constantinople, portant que, si la Convention n'est pas loyalement exécutée sans autre délai, les Puissances sont décidées à se concerter sur les moyens efficaces de protéger le Monténégro, d'empêcher un conflit, et d'assurer l'exécution des engagements qu'elles ont sanctionnés.

No. 102.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 5, 1880.*

THE Russian Ambassador has just communicated to the Minister for Foreign Affairs a telegram from St. Petersburgh, inviting the Austrian Government to join in intimating to the Porte that it must carry out the arrangement about the Montenegrin frontier, and that if it does not do so the Powers will concert between themselves upon the measures that it may be necessary for them to take to protect Montenegro from the Albanians, and to insure the execution of the Treaty.

His Excellency has replied, first, that the proposal appeared premature, as it was not yet known how the Porte had received the last communication of the Ambassadors; secondly, that he should not like to pledge himself to concert measures for the protection of Montenegro and the execution of the frontier arrangements without some idea of what it was proposed that those measures would be; thirdly, that under this proposal the Powers would assume a responsibility which properly belongs to the Porte in regard to the frontier arrangements.

The above was communicated to me confidentially, and with a request not to mention it to my colleagues.

No. 103.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 5, 1880.*

VICE-CONSUL at Varna reports arrival of 163 non-commissioned Russian officers a month ago. I hear from another source that some rifles have arrived which are supposed to have been given by the Emperor of Russia to the [? Prince] during his visit to St. Petersburgh.

There seems to be some doubt about the "Golubsin" having been given to Bulgarin. I will make further inquiry.

No. 104.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(Telegraphic.) *Cettinjé, May 5, 1880.*

YESTERDAY afternoon 2,000 Mirdites publicly entered Scutari with banners flying; 300 are armed with rifles, and the rest with flint muskets. Authorities have been perfectly passive.

I have come here for a couple of days to see the Prince, who informs me that for the present he cannot allow his Commissioner to take part in the Boundary Commission.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 105.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

(No. 63.) *St. Petersburgh, May 6, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

I AM in hopes to induce Russian Government to fall in with General Hamley's last proposition, viz., to authorize Stebnitzky to settle Karaourgan question. Their view is that English Commissioner has no right to intervene until after the line of delimitation has reached the parallel of Karaourgan, but they admit his right to say whether, when this point is reached, it is or is not the point indicated by the Treaty. I have disputed the logic of this. The difficulty arises from the Emperor having taken offence at Colonel Clarke's language last year.

Next Saturday Giers is to see the Emperor, and probably some arrangement may be reached.

Zelenoi is to be Hamley's colleague. As he is already at Tiflis, they do not want to bring him to Constantinople.

No. 106.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6.)

May 6, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

I HAVE delivered bag at Scutari. Prince at Cettinjé on my return, who says Montenegrin Commissioners will not join Commission for the moment as Albanian forces threaten his territory.

Am endeavouring to arrange pursuance of preliminary work, so as to avoid loss of time. Return to Ragusa to-day, where other Commissioners are assembled.

I have consent of both Montenegrins and Albanians to go myself on disputed frontier to observe military position if desirable.

No. 107.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 6, 4 P.M.)

(No. 35.) *Berlin, May 6, 1880.*

(Telegraphic.)

RUSSIAN Government are about to propose that the Powers should come to some agreement as to what should be done in the event of Porte being unable to reoccupy the districts now held by the Albanians.

No. 108.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 122.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880, 3·45 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

LORD EDMOND FITZMAURICE, M.P., has been appointed to succeed Sir H. D. Wolff as Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

It is not intended to employ an Assistant Commissioner at the approaching session at Constantinople.

No. 109.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 123.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880, 4 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

WHEN do you think the reconstituted Eastern Roumelian Commission will be ready to meet at Constantinople?

When should English Delegate come out?

No. 110.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 124.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880, 5 P.M.*

(Telegraphic.)

IT is reported in yesterday's papers that the editor of the "Levant Herald" has been sentenced to imprisonment for seventeen months for the publication of a number of that paper after its suppression by the Porte.

What truth is there in this report?

No. 111.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880, 5 P.M.*

ITALIAN Government have instructed their Agent at Sophia to represent the case of the Mussulman refugees.

You should co-operate with him in this matter.

No. 112.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 296.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880.*

THE accompanying copy of a telegram, addressed by the Ottoman Government to their Ambassador in London,* has been communicated to me by his Excellency, who, in so doing, requested that instructions might be given to your Excellency to urge upon Mr. Whittaker that he must cease to publish the "Levant Herald," in obedience to the law.

I told Musurus Pasha, in reply, that I should probably receive a report from your Excellency on the subject of the application made to you by the Porte regarding the suppression of the "Levant Herald," but that I was without information upon the subject, and could therefore, at present, give no opinion respecting the measures taken by the Porte in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 113.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 298.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May 6, 1880.*

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me on Tuesday afternoon of the persecutions to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria were subjected, and pressed me to urge upon the Bulgarian Government the necessity of taking proper measures to put an end to them.

I told Musurus Pasha that I believed that Lord Salisbury had made repeated representations in this sense, and that he might assure his Government that no efforts would be wanting on my part to effect the object in view.

His Excellency placed in my hands the inclosed telegram, which I propose to forward

* No. 84.

to Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General at Sophia, with instructions to renew his representations on the subject.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 114.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 302 A.) *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government having granted you leave of absence from your post as Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the Queen has been graciously pleased to appoint the Right Honourable G. J. Goschen, M.P., to proceed to Constantinople as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to take charge of the Embassy.

I have to request that your Excellency will inform the Porte of this appointment, and express the hope of Her Majesty's Government that the choice of Mr. Goschen as Her Majesty's temporary Ambassador at Constantinople will be agreeable to the Sultan.

While appreciating the great ability and unwearied industry with which your Excellency has discharged your duties and carried out the instructions under which you have been acting as Her Majesty's Representative at the Porte, Her Majesty's Government consider that it will be of much advantage that the Sultan and the Porte should have the opportunity of learning from a Special Ambassador how grave Her Majesty's Government consider the present situation of affairs in the Ottoman Empire, and their determination to insist, in concert with the other Powers, upon the complete fulfilment by the Porte of its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin with respect to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 115.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 50.) *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1880.

Sir,

THE Turkish Ambassador spoke to me on the 4th instant of the persecutions to which the Mussulman inhabitants of Bulgaria were subjected, and placed in my hands the telegram which he had received from the Porte upon this subject, of which a copy is inclosed herewith.*

I have to refer you to the despatches which have been sent to you by my predecessor, Nos. 38 and 44 of the 22nd and 23rd ultimo, and to previous despatches which were addressed to Mr. Palgrave and Mr. Ashburnham, upon the subject of the Mussulmans in Bulgaria.

I have now to instruct you to renew the representations already made to the Bulgarian authorities on behalf of these unfortunate and helpless people, and to state that Her Majesty's Government hope to receive from the Government of the Principality satisfactory assurances that effectual measures have been taken to secure a cessation of the persecutions of which they have so long been the victims, and to give them that protection to which they have every claim.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 116.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 52.) *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1880.

Sir,

THE Italian Ambassador has informed me that instructions have been sent to the Diplomatic Agent of Italy at Sophia to represent to the Bulgarian Government the case of the Mussulman refugees.

I told Count Menabrea in reply that you had been directed to call the attention of the authorities to the hardships to which these unfortunate people were being subjected, with a view to the alleviation of their misery, and that you would be informed that your Italian colleague would be ready to co-operate with you on the matter. A telegram in this sense was accordingly sent to you this afternoon.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 117.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 187.)

My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 6, 1880.

THE Russian Ambassador called upon me to-day, and inquired whether I had any further information to communicate to him in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, and whether instructions had been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople to require from the Turkish Government a categorical answer as to their intentions in the matter.

I told Prince Lobanow that Sir H. Layard had been instructed to join with his colleagues in requiring a categorical answer from the Porte, but that I had no further information to give him upon the subject.

He added that the Eastern question might be solved, if there were a good understanding between Russia and Great Britain, that we had been the principal rivals in the matter, and that if we agreed, the other Powers would follow us.

I answered that we wished to act in concert with Russia, as we did with other Powers; but that the object would not be advanced by separate understandings, but by united action of the whole of Europe.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 118.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 192.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 3, 1880.

THE Russian Government, after consultation by telegraph with General Zelenoy, has at last agreed that the reunion of the Commission for the settlement of the Khotour boundary should take place in the middle of May, and that immediately after that business is concluded the Tripartite Commission shall repair to Karaourgan.

General Zelenoy, however, does not seem to admit that the Khotour boundary question is so ripe for settlement as General Hamley imagines, and he talks of the necessity of visiting the locality itself; and, in view of the maps, papers, and other documents connected with it being at Tiflis, he presses for the reunion in the first instance of the Turco-Persian Boundary Commission at that place.

Whether this suggestion is made in good faith, or is only a pretext for delay, I cannot say.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 119.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7.)

(No. 193.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 3, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith to your Lordship a note, marked Circular, which I have received from M. de Giers, informing me that M. Hitrovo, the Russian Consul-General at Salonica, has been appointed to act as Russian Representative on the European Commission, which his Excellency states is to assemble at Constantinople to

take into consideration the Règlement for the provinces of European Turkey, which has been prepared by the Porte according to Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 119.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Circulaire.)

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{13}{25}$ *Avril*, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

LA Sublime Porte ayant préparé en vertu de l'Article XXIII du Traité de Berlin les Règlements pour les provinces de la Turquie d'Europe, dont l'organisation n'a pas été prévue par le dit Traité, une Commission Européenne va être réunie à Constantinople à l'effet de donner avis sur ces Règlements.

Le Gouvernement Impérial a désigné le Conseiller d'Etat Actuel Hitrovo, son Consul-Général à Salonique, pour être son Délégué à cette Commission, et l'Ambassade de Russie à Constantinople aura soin de l'inviter à venir prendre place à la Commission lorsque les Délégués des autres Puissances seront nommés et le terme de la convocation de la Commission sera convenu.

En vous priant, M. l'Ambassadeur, de porter ce fait à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 120.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 7.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 4 Mai, 1880.

LES journaux d'Athènes publient deux Circulaires envoyées par M. Tricoupi aux Agents Helléniques à l'étranger relativement, l'une, à l'état de nos provinces limitrophes, et l'autre aux mesures qui seraient prises par les autorités Ottomanes pour créer des obstacles aux travaux de la Commission Technique, dernièrement proposée par le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Il sera facile à la Sublime Porte de faire justice des allégations du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Grèce. Nous ne nions pas qu'il y ait des bandes de brigands dans nos districts avoisinant le territoire Hellénique, mais la plupart de ces bandes, sinon toutes, sont composées de sujets Hellènes et se forment en Grèce. Les troupes Impériales chargées de leur poursuite s'acquittent de leurs devoirs avec la plus grande vigilance ; leurs efforts sont pourtant condamnés à rester stériles tant que l'action des Comités ne sera point paralysée. Telle est la véritable situation et le Gouvernement Impérial a plus d'une fois, mais en vain, attiré l'attention de la Grèce sur l'urgente nécessité de mettre un frein à l'action dangereuse de ce pouvoir occulte qu'il appele ses Comités.

Quant à la persistance organisée d'ordre de la Sublime Porte par les Gouverneurs-Généraux de Janina et de Salonique, en prévision de l'arrivée sur les lieux de la Commission dont parle M. Tricoupi, rien n'est plus inexact. Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a pas plus pensé à transmettre les instructions qui lui sont attribuées que les autorités locales n'ont provoqué les réunions signalées ni exercé les autres manœuvres qu'on leur impute. La Sublime Porte s'élève énergiquement contre cette grave accusation.

Vous voudrez bien porter les faits ainsi rétablis à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

No. 121.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 7.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 4 Mai, 1880.

LES habitants Musulmans de Choumla et de ses environs font parvenir à la Sublime Porte les plaintes les plus amères. Ils vivent dans une alarme perpétuelle et sont continuellement exposés aux exactions et à l'arbitraire des autorités Bulgares qui, sous prétexte de réprimer le brigandage, prennent contre eux les mesures les plus vexatoires en

les accusant de servir de receleurs. Un grand nombre de Musulmans inquiets, ne pouvant supporter plus longtemps un tel régime, quittent la contrée. Les gendarmes et les auxiliaires Bulgares leur inspirent autant d'effroi que les bandits eux-mêmes. Dès qu'un vol est signalé, la localité dans laquelle il s'est produit est livrée à tous les excès de la soldatesque ; les paysans sont battus et torturés sans merci.

Or, on sait que les Musulmans ayant été sans exception désarmés et leurs armes distribuées aux Bulgares, il leur est impossible de se livrer au banditisme.

Parmi les prétendues mesures adoptées en vue de réprimer le brigandage il en est une qui est révoltante. Toute maison visitée et pillée par les brigands serait détruite par le feu, et tous les paysans de l'endroit seraient tenus responsables du méfait commis, et punis en conséquence.

Je prie votre Excellence de nouveau d'user de toute votre influence pour amener le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité à prendre en sérieuse considération cet état de choses intolérable, et qui est évidemment destiné à rendre impossible le séjour des Musulmans dans la Bulgarie.

No. 122.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 7.)

(Télégraphique.)

Constantinople, le 4 Mai, 1880.

JE vous ai déjà fait connaître la situation vraie, créée sur la frontière Monténégrine. La malveillance continue pourtant à accuser quelques-unes de nos autorités d'être de connivence avec les tribus Montagnardes. Bien que la Sublime Porte n'ait pas lieu de douter de la bonne foi ni de la conduite de ses autorités, elle a néanmoins transmis au Gouverneur-Général de Scutari l'ordre catégorique de procéder à une enquête sévère et de faire comparaître devant la Cour Martiale tout fonctionnaire qui, contrairement à la volonté expresse du Gouvernement Impérial, pourrait se livrer à des procédés ou à des actes de nature à encourager les Albanais dans leur résistance. Quant aux accusations dont Izzet Pacha lui-même est l'objet, les données que nos avons nous permettent de les repousser énergiquement ; si les faits qu'on lui impute nous étaient spécifiés, nous serions prêts, après vérification, à prendre à son égard telles mesures qui seraient jugées nécessaires.

No. 123.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cettinjé, May 6, 1880.

REPETITION of telegram of May 3 :—

"With reference to your telegram of the 30th ultimo, Italian Consul has been premature in announcing the arrival of the Mirdites, who are only expected in Scutari this evening. I am of opinion that without coercive measures on the part of the Turkish Government, and some bloodshed, Northern Albanians will not surrender positions to Montenegro. Must these be looked forward to as unavoidable, or may some other outcome be contemplated ? These are questions which I shall not be able to evade answering much longer."

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 124.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7, 11 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)

Cettinjé, May 7, 1880, 6 A.M.

I RETURN to Scutari to-day.

Prince has authorized me to declare to the Albanians that he will remain strictly on the defensive, as he has no intention of taking forcible possession of ceded territory.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 125.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7, 10 P.M.)

(No. 51.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 7, 6·10 P.M.

THE Austrian Consul at Scutari has been instructed to remind the Chief of the Mirdites that the Austrian and French Representatives spoke at the Berlin Congress in favour of the maintenance of the autonomy of that tribe, and to warn him that he will forfeit the protection or favour of those two Powers if he joins in the resistance that is being offered to the European decisions.

No. 126.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7, 10 P.M.)

(No. 52.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 7, 1880, 6·10 P.M.

CORNET [*sic*] KOSJEK, Austrian Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople, is appointed to serve on the Eastern Roumelian Commission. His instructions direct him to endeavour to prevent discussion upon the question of the details of the laws to be submitted for the examination of the Commission, of which the duty is only to ascertain that their general principles are acceptable, and such as to secure the populations from oppression.

No. 127.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 7, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 215.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, May 7, 1880, 1 P.M.

MAJORITY of Commission on Veli Mehmet, the assassin of Colonel Kumarow, having declared him to be insane* [*sic*], he will be condemned to death and probably executed.

No. 128.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880, 2·30 P.M.

SUPPOSING the Porte to find itself incompetent to deal with the Albanians, what compromise or arrangement, under sanction of the Powers, would you think possible to induce them to surrender peaceably the territory ceded to Montenegro?

No. 129.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 210.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI communicated to me on the 4th instant the note addressed by M. de Giers to M. d'Oubril, suggesting that the new Regulations prepared for the Christian provinces of Turkey, under Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty, should be submitted, not to the European Commission for Eastern Roumelia, but to a European Commission to be nominated *ad hoc*, to meet at Constantinople under the control of the Embassies. He communicated at the same time a note addressed to Count Kalnoky by Baron Haymerle on the 30th ultimo, directing him to inform the Russian Government that the Austro-Hungarian Government considered that the work should be undertaken by the Eastern Roumelian Commission, which was still in existence, and expressing the hope that the Russian Delegate to that Commission might be directed to meet his colleagues at Constantinople.

Copies of the latter note are inclosed.†

I informed his Excellency that I concurred in the view of the matter taken by the Imperial Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* *Query sane?*

† Inclosure 2 in No. 86.

No. 130.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 211.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my preceding despatch, I inclose copy of a Circular note from M. de Giers recommending the meeting at Constantinople of a Special Commission instead of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, and of my note to Prince Lobanow of the 3rd instant, informing him of the view of the matter entertained by Her Majesty's Government.*

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 131.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 27. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.

Sir,

WITH regard to the proposed exchange of territory between the Porte and Montenegro, I inquired of you to-day by telegraph what compromise or arrangement could, in your opinion, be arrived at by which the Albanians could be induced to surrender peaceably the territory ceded to Montenegro, in case the Ottoman Government should find itself incompetent to deal with them.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 132.

Lord Tenterden to Sir J. Lintorn Simmons.

(Confidential.)
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.

Sir,

I AM directed by Earl Granville to transmit to you a copy of a despatch which has been received from Major-General Sir Edward B. Hamley,† in which he points out that there is some doubt as to the exact position of Medjingert as indicated in Article LVIII of the Treaty of Berlin, since it appears that there are two villages of that name.

Sir E. Hamley also asks what construction is to be given to that part of the same Article in which it is laid down that the frontier taking the direction of Medjingert continues in a straight line towards the summit of the Mountain Kassadagh.

Sir E. Hamley has suggested that both these points should be submitted to you, as your acquaintance with the negotiations which preceded the drafting of the Article enable you to form an opinion as to the real intent of the persons by whom it was framed.

I am now to request that you will take Sir E. Hamley's despatch into consideration, and favour Lord Granville, at your earliest convenience, with your opinion as to the reply which should be returned to his observations.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No. 133.

Lord Tenterden to Count Károlyi.

Dear Count Károlyi,
Foreign Office, May 7, 1880.

IN reply to the inquiry made by your Excellency on the 29th ultimo, Lord Granville requests me to inform you that, according to the information in the possession of Her Majesty's Government, 163 Russian non-commissioned officers arrived at Varna early in April, and that some rifles have arrived in Bulgaria which are supposed to have been given to Prince Alexander, when he was at St. Petersburgh, by the Emperor of Russia. The number of the rifles said to have been presented is not known, and Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia considers that the report of the presentation of the steamer "Golubrite" to the Bulgarian Government is doubtful.

* See Part XLVIII, Inclosure in No. 311, and *ante*, No. 52.

† No. 74.

He has been instructed to make further inquiries, and any trustworthy information that may be received will be communicated to you without fail.

I am, &c.
(Signed) TENTERDEN.

No 134.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 44. Political.)
Prisrend, April 17, 1880.

My Lord,

IN my despatch No. 42 of the 13th instant I reported to your Lordship that according to Moukhtar Pasha the result of the conflict between the Turkish troops and the refugees near the Servian frontier was one officer and one artilleryman wounded; but from information we have received the affair appears to have been far more serious than what the Turkish authorities were inclined to make us believe.

The affray took place between Vulchitern and Pristina. The loss of the troops is reckoned to be 20 dead and wounded, and that of the refugees 200; but these figures cannot be relied upon.

Two thousand refugees are said to have entered Servia south-east of Podueva.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 135.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 45. Political.)
Prisrend, April 17, 1880.

My Lord,

NOTWITHSTANDING Moukhtar Pasha's assurance before he left Prisrend that no apprehension of disturbances need now any longer be entertained, I regret to have to report to your Lordship that affairs are becoming every day worse, clearly showing what a hollow farce and imposture on the part of the Turkish Government was the presence here during four months of the Ghazi and his eleven battalions.

No reform of any kind has taken place; and not a single person of all those who, by their misdeeds, have made themselves notorious, has been arrested, though Moukhtar Pasha all along led me to believe that he was about to take matters seriously in hand. Indeed, the state of the country is now far worse than before his arrival. The Government has ceased to exercise any control; and anarchy, in the full sense of the word, reigns supreme.

The Jakova question remains unsettled; and it now has become impossible for the Catholic clergy and refugees to return.

All the Christian villages are being plundered by the Mussulman population, and the inhabitants assassinated, tortured, or violated.

In addition to this, we are now threatened with a famine. The prices of provisions have risen 600 per cent. within the last few days. Seventeen persons have died of starvation in the district of Prisend.

Once a-week I render assistance such as my personal means can afford; and on these occasions the bread I distribute is eagerly devoured by hundreds of famished Mussulmans and Christians.

Our own position, moreover, is far from secure. To venture about the streets always involves a certain amount of risk, as the Turkish portion of the population is allowed to be fully armed, and to go out of the town has for the present become quite out of the question.

It appears that the action I took for the protection of the Christians of Jakova has not met with universal satisfaction at that place, and more especially by the family of Coursan, headed by a Government official named Murtes Aga. But these form the minority, and therefore are not to be feared. The mass of the mountaineers are favourably inclined towards us, and the Christians in general; but the Government, for some reason which cannot be explained, unless it is that a desire exists to have all the Christians driven

out of the country, protect the Coursan family, though they took a prominent part in the assassination of Mehemet Ali.

Whatever may be said to the contrary at Constantinople, I still maintain that if the Turkish Government had the will, tranquillity might easily be restored, as the existing disturbances are confined to but a small area, comprising the towns of Prisrend, Jakova, Ipek, Pristina, and Gilan. There is no reason, therefore, why a few battalions and a battery of artillery should not in a very short time produce the desired effect.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 136.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 46. Political.)
Prisrend, April 17, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a memorandum addressed to the Catholic Archbishop, the Austrian Consul, and myself, by five Chiefs of the district of Jakova, in which a family of Coursan and an officer of gendarmerie named Murtes Aga are stated to be the cause of the flight from that town of the Catholic clergy and the chief portion of the Christian population; and pointing out that if the two persons named by the Chiefs were admitted by the Government as officers of gendarmerie and the family of Coursan banished, the return and safety of the Christians would be secured.

The persons in question have been appointed as officers by Moukhtar Pasha, but the objectionable family and Murtes Aga, who bears the very worst character, not only as a fanatic but also as a robber, are left unmolested and consequently the Christians are precluded from returning to their homes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 136.

Memorandum from Chiefs of Jakova.

(Traduction.)

LORS de la conversation que vous avez eue avec Hadjé Jounis Effendi, qui s'était rendu précédemment à Prisrend à propos de quelques familles Latines de Jakova qui avaient dû quitter leur pays, le susmentionné vous a dit que l'auteur de ce méfait n'est autre que la famille pernicieuse des Coursans, aidée par un officier de police, et que pas un des habitants du district n'y a pris part ni consenti à ce qu'y s'est fait. Que si l'on chassait d'ici les séditieux qui protégent la famille des Coursans et que l'on voulait bien nommer capitaines de gendarmerie, en succession de leurs pères, les deux personnes que l'on a demandées par requête au Vali, il y aurait beaucoup à espérer de pouvoir rapatrier et rassurer les familles en question qui ont dû quitter le pays. Hadjé Jounis Effendi nous ayant fait part de ce qu'il vous a exposé, nous vous empressons d'un commun accord de certifier la vérité et l'exactitude du rapport qu'il vous a fait.

Le 20 Janvier, 1880.

(Signé) ALI IBRA.
ABDOUL KERIM.
LE PORTE ÉTENDARD *de Carassi.*
HAIDER, *idem.*
BEKER, *Primat de Carassi.*

No. 137.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 47. Political.)
Prisrend, April 19, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 41 of the 13th instant, I have the honour to report that the details therein mentioned (of atrocities committed on Christians by Mussulmans) have been fully confirmed by a person from the neighbourhood of Gilan.

Though this person steadfastly declined to reveal the names of the guilty parties, and it was with the greatest difficulty that I could prevail on him to impart a portion of what he knew, it is satisfactory to think that the perpetrators of these fiendish acts may some day be found, and that they may yet meet with the punishment they so richly deserve.

It is important, therefore, that the names of the victims and the localities where the outrages were committed should be kept on record.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 138.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 48. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, April 19, 1880.*

YESTERDAY morning fifteen men armed with Martini rifles forced their way into the Russian Consulate, with the object of seizing and assassinating the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster, who it was thought had taken refuge there.

The reason assigned is that a letter of a compromising character, bearing his signature, had been intercepted.

The persons forming the band consisted of three zaptiehs and twelve noted assassins, headed by Ramadan, the murderer of the late Mehemet Ali's telegraphist, mentioned in my despatch No. 10 of the 24th February.

The schoolmaster's letter has not been given up to the proper authorities, and therefore it has yet to be proved whether its contents are such as to compromise the writer.

In the meantime the latter has sought the protection of the Russian Consul, who naturally refuses to deliver him into the hands of assassins, or, indeed, to the Government authorities until his guilt is clearly proved.

After this affair M. Ystrabow called on the Mutessarif, with whom he had a very animated discussion on the subject; and on reproaching him for allowing assassins to go about armed, received the reply that there were political reasons justifying such a course, and that the possession of Gusinjé being retained by Turkey was due to it.

The admission of the Pasha in an unguarded moment exposes the policy which the Government has pursued all along, and goes far to confirm the belief generally entertained that Moukhtar Pasha's conduct, from the day of his arrival at Prisrend to that of his departure, has been one of systematic imposture; and that the Government has either lost all control or associated itself with the most infamous characters to carry out political schemes of a nature to frustrate the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin.

The moving spirit in the affair of the schoolmaster is a certain Hadji Omer Effendi, who, according to Moukhtar Pasha, organized the assassination of Mehemet Ali.

Your Lordship will perceive how insecure is the position of the Consular Body at Prisrend, and how dependent is our safety on the caprices of a set of fanatical assassins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 139.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, April 19, 1880.*

TO-DAY I called on Ahmed Pasha, the Mutessarif, to remonstrate on the insult offered to my Russian colleague by a band of assassins and three zaptiehs, and informed him that if Ramadan, the murderer of Mehemet Ali's telegraphist, was allowed to be at large, and to take the law in his own hands, I should request your Lordship to recall me from Prisrend.

Ahmed Pasha assured me that Ramadan would be arrested the first favourable opportunity; but I am confident that, for political reasons, no steps will be taken in the matter.

The state of affairs here has now become intolerable, and, unless the authorities can be prevailed upon to show more energy, the safety of the Christian population, as well as that of the Consular Body, will be seriously compromised.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 140.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 51. Political.)
My Lord, *Prisrend, April 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship the arrival at Prisrend of two battalions of nizams, or regulars, and the departure of five battalions of redifs, or reserves. The latter, having been called out five years ago, and being much disaffected, are to be disbanded.

If Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha with eleven battalions was unable or unwilling to maintain order in this district, there is little hope that two battalions, commanded by a General such as Ahmed Helmi Pasha, will effect any improvement.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 141.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May .)

(No. 12.)
My Lord, *Pera, April 24, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform you that M. Onou, the present Head of the Russian Embassy, left word for me last evening that he was informed that the Asiatic Boundary Commission (second section) would meet at Tiflis on the 1st June, and he believed that there was concert on this point between the British and Russian Governments.

As I have not been informed of such concert, but only of a proposition to that effect which I have strongly opposed, and as there is a third party to be consulted, namely, the Turkish Government, I accordingly sought an interview this morning with Sawas Pasha, I must mention that the query addressed to him more than a week ago by Sir H. Layard, followed by an urgent demand for a reply, had never been answered; nevertheless, I waived this, and called on him this morning early at his private residence. I told him I was here on a mission which my Government regarded as important, and that it was urgently necessary that I should be informed of the views of the Turkish Government on the subject of it.

I told him of M. Onou's statement, and desired to know whether the Turkish Government had agreed to the rendezvous at Tiflis. He said it had not. I said it was very necessary that I should know the present views of his Government as to the starting-point near Karnourgan, remarking that the Russians had always assumed last year that the decision of the Turkish and Russian Commissioners, supposing it to be authenticated, was final, whereas the Turkish Government had never approved that decision, which was indispensable to its validity. He said the Government never had approved it, and he stated his intention of this morning consulting the Minister for War, and of communicating further with me this evening or to-morrow morning.

I would have waited for this communication, and also for an interview which I shall seek to-day with M. Onou, before writing, but there is no mail till Tuesday.

I am anxious to add some remarks to those I have already made on the subject of the rendezvous at Tiflis. It must be borne in mind that Tiflis is nearly a fortnight's march from the frontier, and that there would be certainly some days' delay before starting from that town, which would, at the very earliest, bring our arrival there to past the middle of June. I would also note that it is important that I should have opportunities of observing the military features of the frontier, which will not be very practicable if I am dependent on Russian escorts. And to put the case shortly, if all preliminary differences are settled before the Commission meets, the best place for it to meet is on the frontier; if they are not settled, the worst place for settling them is Tiflis.

I would also remind you that I am absolutely ignorant at present of any reasons the

Russian Government may have given for desiring to assemble at Tiflis. The place of assembly last year was Constantinople, and if the Russian Government refuse to make the frontier the rendezvous, it should be at Constantinople, where all the Powers are represented, and where all have secure communication with their Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 142.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 133.)
My Lord, *Athens, April 27, 1880.*

IN my despatch No. 23 of the 28th January last, I reported that the Porte had demanded from the Greek Government the extradition of the brigand Spanos, arrested by Greek soldiers on Turkish territory. No official answer having been made to this demand, Tefvik Bey, by order of his Government, addressed another note to M. Tricoupi a few weeks ago, to which he received an answer representing that Spanos was a ruffian whom it was equally the interest of Turkey and Greece to punish; but he engaged, however, to discuss the matter with the Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires before any sentence was carried out upon the man, but making no allusion to the fact which justified the demand for his extradition, viz., that he was arrested on Ottoman territory.

A copy of this note was sent by Tefvik Bey to his Government, who considered it quite unsatisfactory as avoiding all mention of the real cause of the demand being made, and instructed him to make a further communication to the Greek Government on the subject. I have the honour to inclose copy of the note which, in obedience to his instructions, Tefvik Bey addressed to M. Tricoupi, dated the 22nd instant, in which, while formally maintaining the demand that Spanos should be set at liberty, he protests officially, by order of the Sublime Porte, against any injury to the life of the prisoner condemned, in virtue of proceedings of which the basis is tainted at its foundation, in view of the fact of his having been arrested contrary to international right ("Droit des Gens"). He concludes by declaring that the Sublime Porte will hold the Greek Government responsible for all the consequences of the execution of Spanos, if it should take place in spite of this protest.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

P.S.—April 29.—With reference to the case of Spanos, M. Tricoupi told me yesterday that he did not believe that the persistence shown by the Porte in demanding the extradition of Spanos was caused by any love for that individual, or susceptibility as regards his arrest on Turkish soil, but that he, being a man possessed of considerable means, was able, through his friends, to interest by bribery powerful persons at the Porte on his behalf. His Excellency said that if Spanos was given up he would be free in Turkey, as his crimes were covered by an amnesty, and the effect of this would be very bad.

E. C.

Inclosure in No. 142.

Tewfik Bey to M. Tricoupi.

Athènes, le $\frac{10}{22}$ Avril, 1880.

LE Soussigné, etc., s'empresse d'accuser réception de la note que son Excellence M. Tricoupi, etc., a bien voulu lui transmettre le $\frac{26 \text{ Mars}}{7 \text{ Avril}}$ 1880, relativement au sujet Ottoman Vanghély Spanos, et regrette de se voir dans la nécessité de faire remarquer à son Excellence que la note précitée ne constitue guère une réponse aux différentes communications que la Légation Impériale de Turquie adresse, en vain, au Cabinet d'Athènes, depuis plusieurs mois déjà, pour demander l'élargissement de Spanos, illégalement arrêté le $\frac{22 \text{ Juillet}}{3 \text{ Août}}$, 1879, à Sklipho Vryssi, près d'Almyro, en Thessalie, par des soldats de l'armée régulière Hellénique, traîné en Grèce, indûment jugé, et même condamné à mort par les Tribunaux du Royaume, qui n'ont voulu tenir compte ni des Traités existants entre les deux pays, ni de la violation manifeste du territoire Ottoman commise par le détachement militaire Hellénique qui a procédé à cette étrange arrestation sur le sol de l'Empire, ni

des principes les plus élémentaires du Droit International, qui auraient dû imposer à ces Tribunaux l'obligation de se déclarer immédiatement incompétents à connaître d'une pareille affaire.

Le Chargé d'Affaires de Turquie rend un trop grand hommage au jugement si éclairé de M. le Premier Ministre de Grèce, pour douter un seul instant que son Excellence ne veuille reconnaître elle-même, qu'elle s'est bornée, dans sa note du $\frac{26 \text{ Mars}}{7 \text{ Avril}}$, 1880, à faire l'historique des antécédents de Spanos, tandis que, dans l'espèce, il ne s'agit nullement du passé de cette personne, qui, en admettant même qu'il soit peu recommandable, ne saurait cependant légitimer ni justifier, en aucune façon, l'entrée, en temps de paix et sans la moindre autorisation préalable, des soldats Hellènes en Turquie, dans le but d'y arrêter subitement des sujets de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, pour les transporter ensuite violemment en Grèce, et les livrer à la justice du Royaume, mais bien de la satisfaction à obtenir pour un tel acte—satisfaction qui consiste en la restitution de Spanos, abstraction faite de toute considération ayant trait au plus ou moins d'honorabilité de l'individu.

Pour toutes ces raisons, le Soussigné, tout en maintenant formellement sa demande de mise en liberté de Vanghély Spanos, qui fait l'objet de ses précédentes notes y relatives, a l'honneur, d'ordre de la Sublime Porte, de protester officiellement contre toute atteinte qui viendrait à être portée à la vie de cet homme, en vertu d'une procédure criminelle entachée de vices fondamentaux en égard à son arrestation, contraire au Droit des Gens, et de rendre le Gouvernement Royal de Grèce responsable de toutes les conséquences de l'exécution du dit Spanos, si elle venait à être consommée malgré notre protestation.

En notifiant ce qui précède à M. le Président du Conseil, etc., le Soussigné saisit cette occasion, etc.

No. 143.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 43. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, April 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch which I have this day addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, with copies of its five inclosures, relative to the state of affairs in the Vilayets of Salonica, Monastir, and Cossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 143.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, April 28, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Excellency, a translated copy of the Imperial Firman appointing Abeddin Pasha Governor-General of Salonica.

His Excellency on his arrival here was received by the authorities and people with every demonstration of honour and respect. On his installation as Vali the speech, a copy of which, translated by Mr. Assistant Alvarez, I inclose, delivered by his Excellency produced a satisfactory impression on all present, in particular on the Greeks. Subsequently, on the appearance of a deputation from that community, headed by the Archbishop of Salonica, its members were highly flattered by Abeddin Pasha addressing them in very good Greek, which language, both ancient and modern, he speaks most fluently.

A few days ago I called on the Archbishop, when he informed me that Abeddin Pasha was forming a special police force for the protection of the province, amounting to 800 men; and that of these a company of 80, of whom 30 are Christians, has been organized, and is already engaged in performing police duties in the town.

The Archbishop warmly expressed his satisfaction, and that of the Greek community, at Abeddin Pasha's conduct, mentioning as instances of the earnestness with which he was trying to introduce good government and order in the vilayet the recent dismissals of the Governor of Serres, of the Kaïmakam of Avret-hissar, and of the Commandant of Stroumnitza, Osman Pasha, for incapacity; and the formation of a special Commission composed of a Christian, a Turk, and a Jew, under the Presidency of the Vali, for the purpose of

making inquiries respecting the bad characters of the town, and of making regulations for the "khans" with regard to travellers, especially those from the interior. This Commission has already caused to be expelled some thirty very bad characters, sixteen of whom are Turks, eight Jews, and six Christians.

Although better order is now maintained in this town and its immediate vicinity, and some brigand bands have been attacked and dispersed by the military in the districts of Vodina, Yenidjé Cassandra, and Allassona, in the south of Macedonia, I very much regret having to report to your Excellency that the general situation of affairs in this province has by no means improved. Brigandage is rampant everywhere, and it is tedious and painful to have so frequently to refer to such a melancholy and desponding subject without a ray of hope to brighten the prospect.

The inclosed extracts, Nos. 4, 5, and 6, from letters which I have received from Monastir, Serres, and Uscup, give a very sad picture of the condition of those districts, and I gather from persons who have recently come here from the interior that there is great distress and discontent among all classes of the inhabitants, caused by the total absence of security and the growing deficiency of bread-stuffs; and besides the social and political evils which harass the people, there are unmistakable signs of an impending famine, a contingency which will render the task of the Government to pacify the country and collect the taxes all the more difficult.

The price of Indian corn, the staple food of the country people, has reached in some districts a famine point, owing to the total failure of last year's crops, and merchants have begun to import here this and other grains from Odessa and New York. What is more, the weather is not at all propitious for the new crops, and should these prove deficient the distress will be great indeed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 143.

Imperial Firman appointing Abeddin Pasha Vali of Salonica.

(Translation.)

To the illustrious and mighty noble, the most magnificent Beyberbey Abeddin Pasha, Knight of the Third Class of the Glorious Order of the Mejidié, Vali of Sewas, endowed with virtues, and eminently chosen for the infinite favour of the Most High, to whose wisdom the Vilayet of Salonica is now entrusted. May his glory long endure!

BE it known to you that by this Sublime Imperial Firman, the late Vali of Salonica, my illustrious Vizier, and Muschir Refiat Pasha, Knight of the Second Class of the Order of the Mejidié, may the Most High preserve his greatness! has retired from the vilayet. Since it is known to all that it is my Imperial and ardent desire to procure the means of prosperity, perfect safety and tranquillity for my subjects, and for the inhabitants of every class who reside in the Ottoman Empire, as well as the just and impartial direction of affairs, to you who are endowed with the requisite qualities, who know the method of government, and are generally acquainted with ideas and affairs, a servant of my Empire, capable of executing its just laws and regulations, the said Vilayet of Salonica is entrusted. For your appointment, this our gracious Imperial Firman was issued by the Imperial Divan on the 17th of the month Rebi-ul-Evel, 1297, and given you.

With the wisdom and clear-sightedness becoming your dignity, you must travel, if necessary, in person through the country whose administration is confided to your prudence, paying the greatest attention to the most important point of the protection and defence in every way of the inhabitants of my Sublime Empire, of every class, and to their preservation from every kind of oppression under the ægis of my justice. And in every case you must rely on the holy sacred law of the Prophet, and regulate your conduct by the spirit of the existing laws of the Empire, stretching over all the wings of kindness and justice, calling forth the blessings and sincere prayers of all for the glory and prosperity of my Empire; endeavouring to have the political, financial, and other matters of the departments in your jurisdiction administered by competent officials, in accordance with my Sublime Imperial will, exerting your abilities so as to strengthen and increase my manifest and lasting favour towards you, and duly submitting matters to the Sublime Porte from time to time when necessary.

Inclosure 3 in No. 143.

Speech made by the new Vali of Salonica, Abeddin Pasha, and published in the Greek Newspaper "Hermes."

(Translation.)

LIKE all men, I am unable to thank the Most High in fitting terms for His infinite and sovereign mercy to mankind. But in return for the Imperial kindnesses and benefits which have been lavishly bestowed on me by His Imperial Majesty the Refuge of the World, our revered Sovereign, were I to sacrifice my life for the happiness of such a just and capable Emperor, I think I should find eternal life. I have no intention of here pronouncing a well-turned and showy discourse, but intend to thoroughly explain and make public some truths.

If there be any persons who are curious about their new Vali's policy and administrative conduct, this curiosity of theirs naturally cannot be satisfied by what I am going to say; for if good administration depended on words alone, then each functionary of the Government could, with the greatest ease, make public his good administration, his praiseworthy conduct, his good actions, and the goodness of his morals. What is the need of this? Everybody looks not at the words, but to the actions of the wrestlers who enter the list. Some people, by nature simpletons, and inexperienced in worldly matters, are afflicted and despairing at not seeing the immediate removal of the defects of the province in which they live. These men are children. Yes, they are like children who begin to weep because they do not see the sick one who is dear to them recover immediately on the doctor's arrival. But, like everything else on the earth on which we live, recovery from political disease requires time to be effected, as the experienced well know. Should any one search for the signs of recovery from political sickness he must first look for them to the Divine help, and then to the administrative capacity, spotless character, and perseverance of the then Vali. When your Vali's duties are taken into consideration, the numerous obstacles he meets with in his action for the prosperity of the people are just what, of all things in the world, he should be most proud of. The first thing that I shall ask the inhabitants for is that there should be concord and friendship between Mussulmans and non-Mussulmans. For if any one search the history of mankind from the beginning, he will see that the happiness of societies is bound up with the concord and love that exist among the people; and if these were necessary in ancient times and in past centuries, in the present one they are indispensable. As regards your Vali's affection for the people, honourable and irreproachable citizens will, without exception, be dear to him as brothers and children. And let no one think that the Vali will accept and believe, without examination, any statement whatsoever made against a person by those in connection with him. Should the truth of anything mentioned to me prove to be evident, after careful examination, I shall be grateful to my informant. But should the contrary be the case, I shall benefit in this way, viz., on this being proved to be a lie and a calumny, I shall henceforth look upon the informer as a liar and a calumniator.

It is unnecessary for me to speak about the efforts which, with God's help, I intend to make for the annihilation of brigandage, for the spread of education, for the development of commerce, manufactures, and agriculture; and, in a word, for the attainment of the means of improving the present state of affairs, and the prosperity of the inhabitants. It is unnecessary for me to state that these questions are obligatory for a Vali. The misfortunes which have befallen the Empire are well known. But does there exist in the world a State that has not been diseased? Is there no State that has met with temporary misfortunes? The glory and preservation of such countries depends on their energies and efforts made for the prosperity of their peoples, and for the distribution of justice to all, without exception. As regards the Ottoman Empire, no impartial man can deny these high intentions. Consequently, if perchance in our political horizon some small clouds should arise, these, under the auspices of the Reformer, our revered Sovereign, will be entirely dissolved in the spring of the return of strength to the Empire, and then the faithful subjects and allies of the State will rejoice and be happy.

I now stop, praying that the All-merciful may strengthen all our efforts and crown them with the successful fulfilment of the political and social duties imposed on us.

Inclosure 4 in No. 143.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Monastir, dated April 11, 1880.

IT is my duty to inform you that, owing to the prolonged absence of the Vali, Moukhtar Pasha, at Priarend, there is great anarchy in the local Courts, whose members hate each other, and the people, whose affairs are not seen to, are greatly troubled.

There is, moreover, a great deal of brigandage, and many murders are committed, so that no one dares to go outside the town, and all the villagers suffer, first from the brigands, and next from the troops and irregulars.

Five years ago a certain Stephos was hanged, and his confederate, with two others, was put in prison, because they had burnt the village of Prostane, near Demirlar; but very recently these associates of Stephos, on their release, went to the village and demanded damages for having been imprisoned for five years! An agreement was made for 6,000 piastres to be paid to them, of which sum 1,000 piastres was paid, and the remainder was to be sent to the village of Belchista.

Outside Vodina a merchant of Ochrida met several brigands, but as he had a good horse he escaped with a slight wound in the shoulder.

Another Ochrida merchant met brigands of Dibra at Petrino, three hours from Ochrida, was stripped, and escaped with great difficulty, they intending to kill him.

Destan Yonouz, who was Captain of the Dibra police, killed a brigand of Dibra a year ago. This brigand's relations, after a year had elapsed, entered the above police officer's house and murdered him!

The villagers in general are in great trouble because the old brigand Stano, of Ochrida, with twenty companions, robs them of their money and dishonours their wives and daughters.

In the village of Strezio Turks from the villages of Ramna, Doulentché, Kazian, and Lera entered the house of a Christian peasant and demanded his money; they then killed him, and next seized and tortured his brother with the hope of getting more money from him. The wife of one of these two villagers, who was in the sixth month of her pregnancy, miscarried from fear and suffered greatly. The villagers knew the criminals, and denounced them to the Administration, which imprisoned eight or ten of them. It is feared, however, that nothing will be effected in the interrogatory, because, according to the regulations, the crime must be proved by actual witnesses.

About a year ago a Turk of Strouga carried off a Christian villager's daughter. The village policeman Lome, a Turk, seized him somehow or other, bound him with ropes, and handed him over to the Turkish authorities. He was kept in prison about four or five months and then released. The criminal, the very day of his release, went to the market-place and murdered the poor policeman Lome!

Not very long ago a peasant from Alontcha went to the mill to grind a little corn for his family. In the morning he and the miller were found murdered with a knife or some other weapon.

At Tcherna, about two hours' distance from this town, two Christians (one from the town and the other from Perlep) were found murdered. As it had been snowing, they had been covered with snow, so that the bodies did not appear at first.

The villagers of Neveska, in the district of Küpruli-Welessa, came to Monastir about a month ago, and begged that a few troops should be sent them to guard the country, but as no troops were sent nearly forty families of that district have in great fear come to Monastir and Florina.

The famous Greek robber Chief, Capetan Catarachia, a short time ago went to Patele, in the district of Florina, and after stopping there twelve hours, seized all the money and valuables of the villagers, of whom he carried off three rich men as hostages. These hostages agreed to pay Capetan Catarachia a ransom of £ T. 300, but most fortunately the troops attacked the brigands in such a manner that the latter had to fly, when two of the hostages escaped. As regards the other hostage, it is not yet known what has become of him.

This week brigands from Dibra have been again heard to be in the vicinity of Ochrida and Resna. The inhabitants of the latter place have come in to Monastir, asking that soldiers should be sent to protect them, as the intention of these brigands is to carry off several hostages from their village.

Inclosure 5 in No. 143.

Extract from a Letter from Consul-General Blunt's Correspondent at Serres, dated April 23, 1880.

AFTER what I last wrote to you, the first exploit of the Bulgarian "Comitas," or brigands, was an attack on the village of Zilahova. They demanded £ T. 2,000; as this contribution was not forthcoming, they commenced to attack the place in the daytime; this occurred about a month ago. They burned a large building adjacent to the konak; but troops arriving, they had to retreat. The Chiefs of these brigands were Milio and Kukos; the latter it is said was badly wounded in the skirmish with the troops.

Meleniko was also attacked about three weeks ago; there were only twenty zaptiehs in the place, who were forced to hide themselves. One of the houses was attacked, and the inmates refusing to open the gate, the "Comitas" fired at a window and shot a child in its mother's arms. The lady of the house, not finding the husband, they kidnapped her; being recently delivered of a child, they forced an old woman to attend her. They at first asked a very heavy ransom, but were finally satisfied with £ T. 50, and the lady was released.

At Skirgiova a skirmish recently took place between the local police and volunteers and these Bulgarian "Comitas." It lasted ten hours. The "Comitas" were surrounded, but a reinforcement of other "Comitas" arriving, they raised the siege, and all of them escaped. It is said ten Turks were killed and wounded.

At Vrasta twenty-five Greek brigands, it is said, have made their appearance.

Kukulino, another brigand Chief, a Vlach, has arrived from Sophia in Bulgaria with some eighty men. He ravages the villages of Vetrino, Demir-hissar, Sharkioi, and the surrounding vicinity. They rob on the road, sell the spoils, kidnap people, &c. Skirmishes took place with the Circassians, in which some of the latter have been killed.

It is said the village of Nigrita is also being ravaged by brigands.

Another Chief, Tino, it is also said has made his appearance at the head of a band; he prowls in the vicinity of Serres, Soubaskioi, &c.; from Topolean and Sarmusakli villages he demands a contribution of £ T. 2,000!

Inclosure 6 in No. 143.

Extract from a Letter from Uscup, dated April 20, 1880.

DIRECTIONS have been telegraphed by the Vali of Cossova to the Governor of Uscup and the subordinate Kaïmakams of his department to take precautionary and effective measures against Bulgarian brigands who may attempt to foment disturbances in this direction.

A telegram has also been received from the Kaïmakam of Radowitz, stating that on the 23rd March last (April 4) the local police, who had been specially sent out, met a band of Bulgarian brigands composed of seven individuals, and that in the conflict which ensued, Eftim, an active accomplice in the murder of the deceased Kiamil Bey, and a rebel Chief, and Ilo, a jeweller of Radowitz, were killed; of three men who were wounded and fled, one died in his flight, and the other two were taken prisoners. A Martini rifle and a sword were also captured; and on Ilo's body were found a number of documents. The individuals mentioned in these documents were speedily apprehended, and legal measures will be taken against them.

News has reached here from Pristina that the Mahommedan refugees in district of Geilan are growing very insubordinate, and cause much suffering to the Christian inhabitants.

A few days ago more than 500 of these refugees assembled, it is said, in the vicinity of Bikoftcha.

As they were all armed, and the authorities heard that they intended to invade the district ceded to Servia, a detachment of Turkish troops was sent after them. The commanding officer, a General of Brigade, exhorted them to give up their design and return, but they would not listen to him, and finally, as they insulted the troops and fired upon them, killing an officer and several men, the troops charged and dispersed them, capturing some of the ringleaders, who have been taken to Pristina and imprisoned.

No. 144.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 360.)
Paris, May 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 82 of yesterday, I have this morning informed M. de Freycinet that Lord Edmund Fitzmaurice has been appointed to succeed Sir H. Drummond Wolff as Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission; and that it is not intended to employ an Assistant Commissioner at the approaching session at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 145.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(Private.)
Carlton Club, April 26, 1880.

My dear Lord Granville,

AS your appointment to the Foreign Office is now made public, I lose no time in sending to you my resignation of the office of Commissioner on the Commission for Eastern Roumelia.

Lord Salisbury informs me that the Porte is about shortly to summon the Commission for the purpose of advising on the Organic Statutes prepared by the local Commissions under Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty. As I have naturally devoted great attention to this point, if you do not consider it intrusive, it would, perhaps, be well if I could have five minutes' conversation with you on the subject before you name my successor.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) H. DRUMMOND WOLFF.

No. 146.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 8.)

Admiralty, May 7, 1880.

My Lord,

IN continuation of previous correspondence, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of Earl Granville, copy of a letter from Captain Rising, of Her Majesty's ship "Eclipse," dated the 12th April, and copy of a letter from Commander Berners, of Her Majesty's ship "Philomel," dated the 16th April, reporting that perfect tranquillity prevailed at Jeddah.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Captain Rising to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"Eclipse," at Jeddah, April 12, 1880.

Sir,

SINCE my letter of the 10th instant, informing you that, owing to the decided conduct of the late Acting Shereef Abdillah, people at Mecca were greatly quieted, I have little further to report.

2. The new Grand Shereef is ten days out from Constantinople to-day, and should, at the latest, arrive here to-morrow. All is going on so quietly again, and the confidence of the people so greatly restored, that there is not, in my opinion (fully shared by Her Majesty's Consul), any further necessity for this ship to remain, and I therefore leave to-day for Souakin, directing Commander Berners to add his further Report with this, to date of mail leaving, about the 15th instant.

3. I have directed the "Philomel" to remain until a week or ten days after the Shereef's arrival, and then, after consultation with Her Majesty's Consul, and there is still no danger of any disturbance, to proceed in execution of her orders.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. C. RISING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Commander Berners to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

Sir,

"Philomel," Jeddah, April 16, 1880.

IN obedience to instructions received from Captain Charles C. Rising, of Her Majesty's ship "Eclipse," I have the honour to report that the new Grand Shereef has not yet arrived, but is expected hourly.

2. Perfect tranquillity rests in the town, and I do not apprehend the slightest chance of any disturbance.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. R. BERNERS.

No. 147.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8, 2 A.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Scutari, May 7, 1880, 9 P.M.

THREE battalions of regular troops have arrived from Constantinople, but the Pasha had already told me that they are merely intended for garrison purposes. Miridites left to-day for front, and other mountain tribes are concentrating.

I have little hope of being able to persuade Albanians to abstain from offensive operations, as evidently some secret influence is pushing them to active acts, and a combined attack is being prepared with Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 148.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8.)

(No. 215 ?.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, May 8, 1880.

MR. WHITAKER, editor of "Levant Herald," was condemned to imprisonment by default, but the sentence is, I am advised, illegal, and he is at liberty. I have the matter in hand, and the correspondence will be sent home.

No. 149.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received May 8, 1 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.)
Athens, May 8, 1880, 12·30 P.M.

REFERRING to Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 45 of the 26th ultimo, neither of my colleagues of Austria, Italy, or Germany have received instructions relative to presenting an identic note to Greek Government in terms of Circular of French Government.

Two former have asked for instructions by telegraph.

French Minister alone has received instructions, and is prepared to act with me as directed in despatch above mentioned.

No. 150.

*Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.**

(No. 130.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 8, 1880, 4·45 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador has communicated to me a telegram from his Government dated the 4th May.

It states that the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople have, more than once, and categorically, insisted, by a collective note, on the immediate reoccupation by the Turkish troops of the positions ceded to Montenegro, and their regular

* Also to other Embassies.

delivery to the Montenegrin authorities, in conformity with the Protocol of the 18th ultimo.

In presence of the hesitation of the Turks, the urgency of the situation, and the danger of an Albanian aggression on Montenegro, the Russian Government propose a collective declaration on the part of the Cabinets at Constantinople, to the effect that if the Convention is not legally executed without further delay, the Powers are determined to come to an understanding as to effective measures for the protection of Montenegro, the prevention of a conflict, and the execution of the engagement sanctioned by them.

Her Majesty's Government think that it would be premature to make another declaration to the Porte until the answer to the last is received.

No. 151.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 306.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Excellency's information, a copy of a telegram addressed by the Porte to the Turkish Ambassador in London, which his Excellency communicated to me on the 4th instant.

I thanked him for the courteous terms in which it was couched, but I said that the assurances it contained in regard to political questions were of the most vague description.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 152.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 216.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 181 of the 23rd ultimo, I have to state to you that I approve your having communicated to Captain Sale the recent agreement between the Porte and Montenegro. He was officially instructed by telegraph on the 24th November to be guided by that agreement.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 153.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 220. Secret.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

AT an interview which I had to-day with Count Károlyi I told his Excellency that I agreed with the view entertained by Baron Haymerle, that it was desirable to wait for the answer of the Porte to the demand made upon it for the reoccupation of the abandoned positions on the part of the frontier to be ceded to Montenegro, before concerting the further steps that should be taken for the settlement of the difficulty if the Porte should refuse to reoccupy the positions, or should prove to be unable to do so.

His Excellency said that the Austro-Hungarian Government had a decided objection to the employment of force. They did not see how such a step as a forcible intervention was to be carried out. They were not prepared to make it themselves, and they would object to its being undertaken by Italy.

I replied that it would be a grave matter to employ force to compel the populations of the ceded district to submit to the Montenegrins against their will. I asked whether, in his Excellency's opinion, any other way could be found of accomplishing the object, either by offering some compromise to the Albanians which might induce them to give up the district, or by suggesting as a compromise to the Montenegrins territorial compensation in another direction. His Excellency expressed his belief that his Government would be glad to concert as to any arrangement that might be devised which would preclude the use of force to carry out the existing arrangements.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 154.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.[a]

(No. 469 A.)

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IN a telegram from the Russian Government, dated the 4th May, which was communicated to me by Prince Labanoff, it was stated with reference to the alleged violation by the Turks of the Agreement come to between the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs that the immediate reoccupation of the positions ceded to Montenegro, and the regular delivery of these positions to the Montenegrin authorities, in accordance with the provisions of the Protocol of the 18th April, has been categorically and more than once insisted upon in a collective note by the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople.

The telegram goes on to say that the Russian Government, taking into consideration the hesitation displayed by the Turkish authorities, the urgency of the situation, and the danger which exists of an aggressive movement on the part of the Albanians against the Montenegrins, propose that the Great Powers should make a collective declaration through their Representatives at Constantinople, to the effect that unless the Convention be loyally carried out without further loss of time, they are resolved to come to an understanding as to the adoption of effective measures for the protection of Montenegro, the prevention of further bloodshed, and the due execution of the engagements sanctioned by Europe.

Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it would be premature to make another declaration on this subject to the Ottoman Government until a reply to the last representation has been received.

I have acquainted your Excellency with the substance of the above by telegraph this day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 155.

Earl Granville to Count de Montebello.

M. le Ministre,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 30th ultimo, stating that the French Government are of opinion that the Roumelian Commission has never been formally dissolved, and that consequently the regulations for the administration of the European provinces of Turkey should be submitted to that Commission instead of, as had been suggested by the Russian Government, to a new Commission specially appointed for the purpose.

In reply, I beg leave to inform you that Her Majesty's Government concur in the view thus expressed by the French Government, and have appointed Lord Edward Fitzmaurice to succeed Sir H. Drummond Wolff as Her Majesty's Commissioner.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 156.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

Foreign Office, May 8, 1880.

IN reply to your Excellency's inquiry, I have the honour to inform you that the Russian Circular note addressed on the 17th of January to the foreign Ambassadors at St. Petersburgh, in which the assent of the Russian Government is signified to the Turkish proposal that the completed Acts of Delimitation should be sanctioned by an exchange of notes between the Cabinets, has been officially communicated to Her Majesty's Government by Prince Labanoff, who at the same time communicated a note from M. de Giers, addressed to his Excellency on the 31st March, directing him to notify to Her Majesty's Government the assent of the Russian Government to the three Acts of Delimitation in their possession, namely:—

[a] Also to Sir A. Paget, Lord Odo Russell, Sir H. Elliot, the Earl of Dufferin, and Sir A. H. Layard.

1. The Act of the 14th August, 1879, fixing the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumelia.

2. The Act of the 20th September, 1879, fixing (*a*) the Danubian frontier of Bulgaria; (*b*) the frontier between Bulgaria and Macedonia; (*c*) that between Bulgaria and Servia.

3. The Act of the 19th August, 1879, describing the new Servian frontier.

Her Majesty's Government concur with the Austro-Hungarian Government in the view that the Acts mentioned should be sanctioned at once, and they have notified their assent to them to Prince Lahanoff. They will be prepared, if the other Governments also agree, to accept the suggestion of the Austro-Hungarian Government, that the sanction of the Acts shall be recorded by means of an exchange of formal notes of the nature of that of which a draft has been communicated by your Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 157.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 137.) *Athens, May 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Ottoman Chargé d'Affaires has received lately accounts from the Turkish Consuls near the frontier of Thessaly of various acts of brigandage committed by Greek subjects on Ottoman territory, and of the general unsettled state of affairs on the frontier. He has spoken to M. Tricoupi on the subject, and was told by the latter that he was aware of this state of affairs, but that on account of the difficulty there was in watching a frontier so favourable to brigand enterprise, and the smallness of the force the Government could employ in the service, it was impossible to suppress brigandage. He promised, however, that the most stringent orders should be sent to the military authorities in that district to do all that was possible to ameliorate the state of affairs Tefvik Bey complained of.

On account of the jealousy felt by the Turkish Government in regard to a common action on the part of the two Governments for the suppression of brigandage on both sides of the frontier, and the facilities offered by the nature of the country for its exercise, there is little prospect that the existing state of affairs in that quarter can be ameliorated as long as the present frontier between Turkey and Greece is maintained.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 158.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 64.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1880, 10 P.M.*

INSTRUCTIONS have been sent from hence to Stebnitski to take up the Karaourgan business immediately on his arrival at Constantinople. He will first confer with Turkish Commissioners about the disputed trace cutting the parallel of Karaourgan, and immediately afterwards General Hamley will be called in to settle, in conjunction with his Turkish colleagues and Stebnitski, the question of the point X on Clarke's map. Russian Government is willing after this that the Delimitation Commission should at once return to Karaourgan, in accordance with General Hamley's suggestion. It will be better to let the matter rest here for the present, until Hamley shall have seen Stebnitski. If the necessary opening for settling the difficulty about Karaourgan is not at once afforded him, he can telegraph again, and I will see what more can be done. I am in hopes, however, he will find Stebnitski has received orders to facilitate a settlement.

No. 159.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(No. 65.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1880, 10·5 P.M.*

M. DE GIERS said to me to-day that Russia always intended to wait Porte's reply about Montenegro before considering further proceedings. He regards with great apprehension the difficulty that has arisen.

He is convinced that the Porte will be powerless to afford redress, and does not see who is to compel them. "One way out of it," he added, "has occurred to me, but I dare not breathe it, viz., that Austria should give up a corner of the Herzegovina where the population is kindred to Montenegro. She is more interested than any other Power in getting rid of the trouble."

This hint must be regarded as confidential.

No. 160.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 8, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, I can suggest no arrangement which would be likely, under the auspices of the Porte, to secure peaceable surrender of ceded territory. Albanians, I believe, would now oppose even Turkish troops sent for such a purpose. The easiest cession would be the one explained in my despatch No. 29 of the 23rd February last.

Affairs here have reached a point when the fulfilment of Porte's engagements to Montenegro entails employment of violence against a Christian population who has hitherto managed to maintain a kind of semi-independence.

Turkish Government might cause submission by a blockade of the Christian mountains, but are the Powers prepared to support such a course? I, at all events, would have very little faith in the *bond fide* execution of the plan by the Turks, and would expect much suffering by the Christians.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 161.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 9.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 9, 1880.*

I AM sending to your Lordship by to-morrow's mail the copies of [group wrong] Montenegrin notes protesting against the conduct of the Ottoman authorities, and appealing to the Powers to put a stop to what is leading to inevitable hostilities with Albania. I also forward copy of a further declaration of Albanian Mountain Chiefs that they will resist all [? cession]s to Montenegro.

(Not sent to Constantinople.)

No. 162.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 167.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, April 28, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 51 of the 23rd instant, I have the honour to transmit copy of a note which I have received from M. de Giers informing me that Major Sollohoub has been appointed Russian Delegate on the Montenegrin Delimitation Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 162.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Circulaire.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{19}{31}$ *Avril*, 1880.

M. le Comte,

J'AI l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de porter à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement que le Gouvernement Impérial a nommé son Délégué à la Commission de Délimitation de Monténégro, le Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major Sollohoub, qui ne manquera pas de rejoindre ses collègues à Raguse, le 1er Mai (v.s.), date fixée par le dernier Protocole de la Commission de Délimitation.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 163.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 195.) *St Petersburgh, May* 5, 1880.

My Lord,

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 71 of the 1st instant, I lost no time in inquiring what were the views of the Russian Government respecting the Montenegrin difficulty with the Albanians, and I have now the honour to inclose herewith copy of the answer which I have received from M. de Giers inclosing a telegram sent yesterday to Prince Labanoff which I have no doubt has been already communicated to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 163.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

St. Pétersbourg, le 22 *Avril*, 1880.

Milord,

J'AI reçu et porté à la connaissance de Sa Majesté l'Empereur la note de votre Excellence du $\frac{20 \text{ Avril}}{2 \text{ Mai}}$.

Sa Majesté a accueilli avec une vive satisfaction le désir témoigné par Lord Granville de s'entendre avec nous, ainsi qu'avec les autres Cabinets, sur la marche à suivre en commun en présence des dangers de la situation entre l'Albanie et le Monténégro.

Ce désir répond entièrement aux vœux de mon auguste Maître, vivement préoccupé de ce périlleux état de choses.

D'ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale je viens d'adresser au Prince Labanoff le télégramme ci-joint, qui fera connaître à votre Excellence les vues du Cabinet Impérial en réponse à la question posée par Lord Granville.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

Inclosure 2 in No. 163.

M. de Giers to Prince Labanoff.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{22 \text{ Avril}}{4 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

AMBASSADEUR d'Angleterre a été chargé par Lord Granville de nous demander notre opinion sur marche à adopter en face des complications imminentes entre Albanais et Monténégrins. Les Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Constantinople, d'ordre de leur Gouverneur, ont itérativement et catégoriquement insisté par note collective sur la réoccupation immédiate par les troupes Turques des positions dévolues au Monténégro et leur remise régulière aux autorités Monténégrines, conformément au Protocole sanctionné par les Puissances. Vu les hésitations du Gouvernement Turc, l'urgence de la situation, et le danger d'agression Albanaise contre Monténégro, proposons déclaration collective des Cabinets à Constantinople portant que si Convention n'est pas loyalement exécutée sans autre délai, Puissances sont décidées à se concerter sur moyens efficaces de protéger

Monténégro, empêcher conflit, et assurer exécution des engagements qu'elles ont sanctionnés.

No. 164.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 197. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 5, 1880.

DURING the course of a familiar conversation with the Austrian Ambassador, I inquired whether his Government at all misdoubted the loyalty of its Slav subjects.

Count Kalnoky said, "Not in the North or where they are Catholics, nor, indeed, even in the South where they are Orthodox, in spite of constant endeavours on the part of the Russian Government since the time of Nicholas to gain their affections by liberal presents to their churches; but," added Count Kalnoky, "the case would be different should a big Servia or Bulgaria come into existence."

I then referred to the recent congratulatory visit of the German and Austrian officers on the occasion of the Emperor's birthday, and to its having been regarded by a portion of the Continental press as significant of the renewal of the league between the three Emperors.

Count Kalnoky replied, "That the visit in question was merely a demonstration of personal courtesy on the part of the Austrian and German Courts towards the Russian Sovereign; but," he observed, "an understanding with Russia is a door to be kept open in the event of Mr. Gladstone's Government evincing hostility to the interests of Austria."

I said, "If you could trust Russia, it might be for your interest to come to an understanding with her."

"Yes," he replied, "it would certainly be so, but we cannot trust her. The league of the three Emperors was an endeavour in that direction, but it came to an end because we found we could not trust her. We don't wish to revive it, nor does Prince Bismarck. On the contrary, we have been looking forward to acting in concert with England."

Count Kalnoky has been recently appointed Ambassador here, and it is probable the foregoing are only his personal views. I merely transmit them for your Lordship's own information, and I would beg that they may be considered as confidential.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 165.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 199.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May*, 5, 1880.

DURING the last ten days I have been endeavouring to induce the Russian Government to agree to the immediate assembly of the Tripartite Commission of Delimitation at Karaourgan. Last week being Holy Week the Ministers were invisible, and it was impossible to get any business transacted.

My telegrams will have informed your Lordship of the steps I have taken in support of General Hamley's propositions. I have seen M. de Giers repeatedly, and to-day I have seen General Miliutine. M. de Giers admits, as indeed does General Miliutine, that the point in dispute is insignificant, but both General Miliutine and the Emperor were very much irritated by Colonel Clarke's somewhat energetic language last year. General Miliutine says that it has become a question of *amour propre*, and M. de Giers tells me that the Emperor cannot bear the idea of giving way or passing under what he calls the "Caudine Forks."

At last, however, I have made some impression upon General Miliutine's mind, and he has written to M. de Giers authorizing him to modify his opposition. M. de Giers says that between General Miliutine and the Emperor he is in a very uncomfortable position; but now that he has got this letter from the Minister of War, he hopes on Saturday, when he is to see the Emperor, to induce His Majesty to come to an arrangement which may be satisfactory to us.

The Russian view is that the British Commissioner has no concern with the Turco-

Russian delimitation, but that as soon as that delimitation shall have been completed, and shall have reached the parallel of Karaourgan, it will be for the British Commissioner to say whether the point thus determined corresponds with the point indicated by the Treaty of Berlin, that is to say, whether it is to the east of and near to Karaourgan.

I have replied that this contention is illogical; that the Treaty of Berlin laid down certain fixed points through which the delimitation was to be traced; that the Russians want the connecting lines to determine the points, whereas the Berlin Treaty requires the points to determine the lines; that it was purely optional and a matter of accident, or rather of convenience, whether the frontier should be worked out from north to south or from south to north, in which latter event it would have fallen to the province of the Tripartite instead of the Dual Commission to strike the point on the parallel of Karaourgan.

Be this as it may, I am in hopes of inducing the Russian Government to allow M. Stebinitsky to enter without further delay into the discussion of the disputed point near Karaourgan with General Hamley, as suggested by that officer.

General Miliutine again expressed his doubts whether the settlement of the Khotour Boundary was at all so simple a matter as General Hamley suggests, and he seems to regard a visit to the locality by the Commissioners as indispensable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 166.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 193.) *Berlin, May 6, 1880.*

My Lord,

MY Russian colleague, M. de Sabouroff, tells me that his Government is about to propose to the Signatory Powers that some agreement should be concerted as to the best mode of carrying out the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the Montenegrin frontier, in the event of the Porte being unable to reoccupy the districts which have been invaded and are still held by the Albanians.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 167.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 194.) *Berlin, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to state that, in obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I called this day at the Foreign Office and, in the absence of Prince Hohenlohe, communicated to, and left a copy with, the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, of your Lordship's despatch No. 183 of the 4th instant, respecting the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Hohenlohe will, I hope, be able to receive me early next week.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 168.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 212.) *Rome, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 56 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to state that I have informed the Italian Government of the appointment of Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice to succeed Sir H. Drummond Wolff as Commissioner in Eastern Roumelia, and that it is not intended to employ an Assistant-Commissioner at the approaching Session at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

P.S.—Count Maffei, whom I saw this morning, has informed me that it is the intention of the Italian Government to reappoint Signor Vernoni as their Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

A. P.

No. 169.

Consul-General Lippich to Baron von Haymerle.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 10.)

(Translation.) *Scutari, April 24, 1880.*

IN completion of my respectful telegram of the 23rd, I have to state what has been going on the last day or two.

After I had on the 20th informed the Resident Minister, Von Thoemmel, how things were coming into shape in general, and that Izzet Pasha had received and published the expected directions of the Porte, the confluence of the population here began, even at the last-mentioned date, with the Mount Albanians (Hotti, Gruda, and Kastrati) assembled at Tusi, who were reinforced by emigrants from Podgorica and Spuz, besides the levies of Rioli, Koplik, and the Posripa with Summa. The Klementi occupied the passes in the Zem Valley, and approached the plain; Selkreli still gathered its combatants—the highlanders on the winter meadows beyond the Drin drew hastily in small bands to Tusi, where on the 22nd some 9,000 men had assembled and stationed themselves in échelon along the skirts of the mountains from Helu to the Zem. Hadji Osman Pasha came here from Tusi in the evening of the 21st, and, after a conference with Izzet Pasha, went back the same night with two companies. The adjutant of the Governor, Captain Jakub Ago, and M. Tonietti, Secretary of the Italian Consulate here, had gone to Plavnica some hours before to meet the Montenegrin Commissioners there, and to arrange the details of the transfer.

On the 22nd, at 9 o'clock, Turkish (4 o'clock P.M.), the evacuation and the simultaneous occupation of the Turkish positions by the Montenegrin troops were to take place. At the time appointed the Nizams began to march away, leaving behind some mountain guns and a depôt of Martini-Henry rifles with ammunition, because it was said means of transport were wanting, whilst the greater part of the material had already been carried back. The Albanians immediately left the positions in which they had concealed themselves, and with a following of women and children bringing provisions and water occupied all the places of the troops in face of the Montenegrin troops who were marching on to take occupation, but had not got near enough to anticipate them. Notwithstanding the assurances of the latter that they wished to avoid hostilities, there arose as they went on in company with Chalid Bey, or, as is not exactly known here, his Secretary, Mihran Effendi, a skirmish of fire-arms between the Albanians and the Perjaniks who formed the escort, in which the Montenegrins seem to have suffered rather severely. It is said here they lost thirty killed and four heads; also that the Turkish functionary was wounded, and obliged to leave his baggage behind him.

My telegraphic reports of yesterday and this morning mentioned details of the measures adopted by the Committee here for the defence of the country against Montenegro, in order to procure for the national force already assembled important reinforcements from all the country districts on this side—Mirdita, Puka, Alessio, Kesella, Dibre, and Matia included—up to the southern boundary of the province, as well as provisions and shoes; and to secure the participation of the Djakova League for them, the latter will no doubt be the case, as yesterday several Chiefs of tribes had already arrived here from Krasnitsch and Gaschi, and went away to Tusi to-day to settle the details with the insurgents. On the 21st it was telegraphed from here to Ipek, that on the following day "the reception of the bride would take place." The movement is conducted and organized by the Committee with remarkable circumspection and energy. The money contributions are not indeed levied by force, but certain intimations are given with which the refractory deem it prudent to comply. In the first place, every trace of the former mistrust between Turks and Catholics has disappeared, chiefly, no doubt, under the impression made by Izzet Pasha's publications, wherein he has accurately described the origin and course of the exchange of territory question, the settlement of the Convention, and the details arranged for the evacuation, especially these last; but a mighty impulse has been given to the idea that the further inroad of Montenegro on Albanian soil must be opposed by calling every force into action. After the arrival of the first intelligence about the issue of the events of the 22nd instant, an indescribable excite-

ment pervaded all classes of the population; Catholics and Mussulmans vied with each other in manifestations of the liveliest joy, the boys of the municipal music band here even demanded to be sent to the "national troops." Fresh bodies of men are continually going to Tusi, amongst them even Catholics of the town, who have hitherto kept aloof from all action.

As regards the organs of the Porte, it is the fact that they pass from their former reserve to open participation in the movement. Apart from the fact that they act on instructions, they could not moreover withdraw from it either without evident danger, because the few troops which Izzet Pasha has at his disposal would not by far suffice to oppose it with force, and because they have already made common cause with the nationals. This is going on under the direction of Osman Pasha, who disguises them as Mount Albanians, and sends them back from Kastrati to Tusi. He takes them from the two Albanian battalions which are under his command, and after two companies had gone over he had 500 more sackcloth accoutrements prepared at Kastrati. In a few days he will probably have no more Albanian soldiers. The other troops—two Anatolian battalions—remain in reserve.

The Colonel of Gendarmerie, Hodo Bey, has been sent to Tusi ostensibly to pacify, but in reality to give military organization to the resistance, and as confidant of the Committee here.

On the 21st instant Prenk Bib Doda received the peremptory summons to declare whether he acceded to the national cause or not? In the evening of the same day he received a telegram of Hodo Bey's from Tusi, containing the same summons. Before his departure for Mirdita, he sent me assurance that he was only giving way under pressure which left him no other escape. This is the case in fact. It will have to be seen whether the Mirdites will comply with the call which he is obliged to make upon them, to the extent that is expected here. Hereabout news spread very quickly from mountain to mountain, and it will chiefly depend on the nature of this news whether the Mirdites and their neighbouring allies will come out or not. The success indisputably gained for the Albanian cause on the 22nd instant can, however, hardly fail to urge them on, were it only to register *acte de présence*, and to get breechloaders and ammunition, of which they are still destitute. Once provided with these they would have better command of their own situation. Probably they will open negotiations for arming and provisioning, perhaps also in regard to Captain Prenk's position, but I will not anticipate what will at all events take place in a few days at Mirdita.

Captain Kola has likewise been sent by Izzet Pasha with some Elders of tribes to Droschi, whilst Dod Ghega remains here evidently to facilitate Prenk Bib Doda's action.

If the Mirdites march out with the hill tribes of Puka (Dukadjin), Kesella, and Alessio, the nationals would probably gain an accession of at least 3,000 men, who would be followed by numerous combatants from Dibre and Matia. There seems as yet but little inclination prevailing in Tirana, Kraja, and Kavaja for joining the movement.

M. Tonietti and Izzet Pasha's adjutant had gone by Plavnica to Podgorica, where they had delivered to the Woiwode Plamenac official letters relative to the evacuation of the Turkish positions, fixed for the afternoon of the 22nd. They state they arrived there at six o'clock in the morning, so that the Montenegrin troops had time enough to be in front of the positions before the hour announced for the transfer to them. They went back to Plavnica and embarked for Helm, where they found the Turkish troops already on the retreat.

The announcements here about the losses of the Montenegrins at the quite unimportant skirmish of the 22nd were enormously exaggerated. The Albanians state that their advanced posts had fired some volleys over the heads of the Montenegrins as they marched up, in order to make them halt; only at the scuffle which took place when Mihran Effendi (not Chalid Bey) wanted to force the posts to get to Osman Pasha some wounds were inflicted.

This morning about 500 Klementi and Schkreli, from Alessio, marched through to Tusi; reinforcements go there from the town daily. So far the Committee has had 9,000 rations of maize bread a-day prepared for Tusi, and sent to the camp there.

Thursday or Friday a transport of 40 horses with rifle-chests (in all, from 800 to 900) went from Scutari to Tusi. The consignment was effected by the Committee which had taken over the arms from the fiscal depôt. About forty men, including twenty gunners, are gone over to the insurgents, as pretended deserters from the garrison here. The accessions that go by Scutari either take ship at the Custom-house, and go by the sea route, or they are directed round about the town to the roads leading to Kastrati, whilst zaptiehs make a show of pursuing them in other directions.

The Bairaktars of Schalla and Schoschi are going away to Tusi; the other Elders of

tribes returned to the mountains the day before yesterday, to call the population to arms. It is thought that the fighting force of the national troops will be brought up to 12,000 men in a few days, and there are hopes that through the Mirdites and others, with the accessions from the villages of the Bojana and from Dulcigno, the number of men will reach 16,000 within a week.

M. Tonietti went to Tusi yesterday morning, ostensibly to ascertain whether Osman Pasha left cannon and rifles behind there. It appears that from here also some mountain guns were embarked for Helm. Mr. Green asserts that he has learned the contents of a telegram from Izzet Pasha to Osman Pasha, sent before the evacuation, that if a battery should fall into the hands of the Albanese, it would hardly be worth while to prevent the capture of it.

Ali Pasha, of Gusinjé, who was at Ipek a few days ago, and thought of dismissing the men who still remained there, kept them back, however, on receiving information from Hodo Bey, and left orders to be in readiness for a subsequent push from Djakova and Ipek. It is asserted that the plan of the leaders extends to assuming the offensive from Gusinjé and Tusi so soon as the Albanian troops at the two points should be brought up to the requisite strength (25,000 to 30,000 men).

No. 170.

Musurus Pasha to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

My Lord, *Ambassade Impériale Ottomane, le 8 Mai*, 1880.

AINSI que je l'ai promis à votre Excellence, j'ai l'honneur de lui transmettre, ci-joint, en copie, accompagnée de ses annexes, la dépêche de Sawas Pasha du 29 du mois dernier, dont j'ai donné lecture à votre Excellence à l'occasion de notre entrevue d'avant-hier.

Votre, &c.
(Signé) MUSURUS.

Inclosure 1 in No. 170.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Le 29 Avril*, 1880.

LES informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte signalent de nombreux actes de spoliation dont les Musulmans de la Bulgarie sont journellement victimes par suite de l'application d'un Décret et d'un Règlement promulgués en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Février, 1879.

J'ai cru devoir adresser à ce sujet à l'Agence de la Principauté à Constantinople une note pour protester contre cet état de choses et en demander la cessation.

En transmettant, ci-joint, à votre Excellence, pour son information, copie de cette note, je la prie de signaler au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique la violation évidente de l'une des dispositions du Traité de Berlin.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) SAWAS

Inclosure 2 in No. 170.

Note Verbale.

IL résulte des informations parvenues à la Sublime Porte que de nombreux actes de spoliation sont exercés journellement contre les Musulmans de la Bulgarie par suite de l'application d'un Décret et d'un Règlement promulgués en date du $\frac{1}{13}$ Février, 1879.

Ainsi, sous prétexte de constructions d'utilité publique, on s'est emparé à Sophia de la presque totalité des propriétés appartenant aux malheureux Musulmans après une estimation dérisoire de leur valeur. Les locaux affectés aux Tribunaux, écoles, casernes, hôpitaux militaires, ainsi qu'au logement des fonctionnaires proviennent également de confiscations de propriétés Musulmanes. Le terrain même offert à la Russie pour la construction d'un Consulat n'est que le produit de la dépouille de quatre propriétaires Musulmans. Comme pièce à l'appui des faits ci-dessus mentionnés, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères transmet, ci-joint, à l'Agence Princière, une liste des maisons appartenant aux Musulmans à Sophia et dont le Gouvernement et les particuliers Bulgares se sont emparés.

Les embellissements de la ville de Sophia ont été aussi le prétexte de la vente aux enchères par les soins de la Municipalité d'un grand nombre d'immeubles appartenant à des Musulmans et dont le prix n'a jamais été remis à leurs malheureux propriétaires qui ne peuvent rien y faire, car, s'ils s'avisent de demander la restitution de leurs immeubles, ils sont forcés de prouver leurs droits de propriété non-seulement par la production de titres en règle, mais encore par le témoignage de Bulgares—témoignage qui ne s'obtient qu'à forts prix d'argent. Le nommé Ahmed, frère de Suleiman bin Zulfibar, de Doubnitza, a été même tué par les habitants du village de Ressully (district de Doubnitza) en allant invoquer leur témoignage pour un pareil cas.

Lors même qu'ils sont reconnus propriétaires, les Musulmans ont à subir les plus dures conditions. On exige d'eux le remboursement de frais de réparation qui souvent dépassent la valeur de l'immeuble, et s'ils refusent de se soumettre à ces exigences, ils sont jetés en prison. Ce système, qui est la conséquence directe du Règlement susvisé du 1/13 Février, 1879, est appliqué à l'égard des Musulmans dans toutes les parties de la Principauté, et ne tend à rien moins qu'à rendre leur situation absolument intolérable. D'ailleurs, ce Règlement viole d'une manière flagrante le Traité de Berlin en ce sens qu'il frappe d'une sorte de pénalité les émigrés Musulmans en ordonnant la vente de leurs biens, alors qu'aux termes de l'Article XII dudit Traité ils avaient et ont encore le droit de conserver la propriété et la pleine jouissance de leurs immeubles, tout en fixant leur résidence hors de la Principauté.

Il est vrai qu'une partie des mesures décrétées par le Règlement semblent avoir eu pour objet l'amélioration de l'édilité de la ville de Sophia; mais il est facile de reconnaître qu'à cette occasion le Règlement a établi une distinction illégale entre les propriétaires Bulgares et les propriétaires Musulmans, puisque les propriétés de ces derniers sont seules vendues en dehors des nécessités de l'alignement des voies publiques.

En présence d'un état de choses aussi grave, le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ne peut que protester contre le Règlement dont il s'agit, et il prie l'Agence Princière de vouloir bien faire à Sophia les communications nécessaires afin que l'application en soit suspendue en ce qui touche celles de ses dispositions qui concernent les propriétaires Musulmans, et pour que les dommages causés à ces derniers par l'application de ces mesures illégales soient réparés.

Le 26 Avril, 1880.

Inclosure 3 in No. 170.

List of Houses belonging to Mussulmans at Sophia taken possession of by the Government and by private Individuals.

Propriétaires.	Sises au Quartier—	Occupées par—
Tchélèby Effendi	Capan	Le Ministre Grécoff.
Tchitdji Ibrahim Effendi ..	"	Matchovits.
Khoulonssy Effendi	Près du Palais	Le Docteur Militaire.
Yacoub Agha	" "	Le frère du Ministre Grécoff.
Hussein Husny Effendi ..	" "	M. Dasealow, Gouverneur de Sophia.
Molla Abdul Rahman.. ..	Cara Chahin	M. Karaveloff.
Halil Effendi et Essad ..	Chéljaï Faki	M. Proszak, ex-Ingénieur Municipal.
Messoud Effendi	Cara Chahin	M. Kovatchow, employé municipal.
Hassan Kiamil Effendi ..	" "	L'ex-Ministre Balabanoff.
Feizi Effendi	" "	Bournoff.
Saadeddin Effendi	Muhtessib-Zadé ..	Le maître d'école, Popovitch.
Ismaïl Agha	Près du Palais	Hadji Mano Oglou.
Hadji Aziz Agha	Hodji Yakhchy	L'ex-officier Russe, Pojidaroff.
Arif et Naïm Effendis ..	" "	Le Chef des Douanes.
Feu Hassan Effendi et deux autres Maisons	" "	Indjé Kodja Oglou, Président du Conseil du district.
Noury Effendi	Yazidji Zadé	Ecole Primaire.
Rachid Bey	Kurughouz Bey	" "
Tevhidé Hanem	" "	" "
Héritiers de Mourad Bey ..	Courou-Tchechmé ..	Municipalité.
Delliol Yachar et Tchélèby ..	" "	Capitaine de Police, Dimitri.
Imam Bachi Effendi	" "	M. Wistrossky, membre de la Cour de Cassation.
Tchapkin Mehemed	" "	Un fonctionnaire Bulgare.
Moustapha Bey	" "	Docteur Boneff.
" "	" "	Corps de Garde.
" "	" "	La Municipalité.
Yacoub Agha	Capan	L'Avocat Vélitchko.

Propriétaires.	Sises au Quartier—	Occupées par—
Achik Ali Agha	Chedjaï Faki	La Municipalité.
Hadji Mehemed	" "	"
Mehemed Effendi	" "	M. Drinoff.
Hadji Molla		
Molla Ibrahim		
Saraldj Salih		Ces maisons ont été démolies par la Municipalité; le Gouvernement occupe leurs terrains, sur lesquels sera construit le Consulat Russe.
Hadji Aziz	" " ..	
Molla Moustapha		
Yachar Agha		
Abdoullah Effendi	Muhtessib Zadé ..	M. le Ministre Grécoff.
Moustapha Effendi	.. ..	
Emin Agha..	.. ..	Par la Municipalité pour le Consulat de Russie.
Hadji Sadik..	.. ..	
Noureddin	Muhtessib Zadé ..	Mikhaloff.
Héritiers du feu Hadji Békir Agha	.. ..	Brûlée par l'armée Russe, occupée par le Club.
Arifé Hanem	.. ..	L'Ecole.
Héritiers Hadji Békir ..	Près du Palais	Démolie pour servir de place publique.
Daoud et sa sœur	Dellak Hassan	L'Ecole.
Moustapha Effendi	Cara Chahin	L'armée Russe et brûlée trois jours après.
Kiard Hafiz Agha	Cara Daniclimend ..	" " "
Héritiers de Molla Mehmed ..	Kirémitly	Toka, frère de M. Stoyantcho.
Dervich Moustapha Bey ..	Bana-Bachi	Natchalnik et le Conseil du district.
Héritiers d'ex-Mufti Effendi ..	" "	Démolie pour servir d'emplacement à une banque.
Mehemed Bey Zadé	Songhoular	Municipalité.
12 maisons	Dellak Hassan	Ecole.
Héritiers d'Ahmed Effendi ..	Capan	Alexandre, Aide-de-camp.
Ismaïl Effendi	Carughouz Bey	L'Ingénieur Municipal.
Ismaïl Effendi	" "	Chancellerie du Gouverneur.
Hadji Moustapha	" "	" "
Imam	Orta Mesjid	L'Avocat Vélitchko.
Hadji Emin Agha	.. ..	Municipalité.
Molla Mehemed	.. ..	"
Chazi Bey	.. ..	"
Chaban Effendi	Yazidji Zadé	L'ex-Gouverneur.
Fille de Pamouk Ali	Kurughouz Bey	Le Major de l'Artillerie.
Ismaïl Effendi	Hadji Yakhchy	Isogrussky, de la Cour de Cassation.
Hadji Aziz Agha	Siavouch	Municipalité, pour faire une place publique.
Hassan Effendi, Hadji Bari Agha, et Moustapha	Chedjaï Faki	Ces trois maisons démolies par la Municipalité et faites jardins.
Yéchar Agha, Arifé Hanem, et Moustapha Effendi	Siavouch	Démolies par la Municipalité, les terrains de ces trois maisons sont occupés pour l'Ecole Militaire de Sophia.
Ibrahim Effendi et quelques autres maisons	"	La Municipalité, pour servir de place publique.
Réchidé et Eminé Hanems ..	Courou-Tchechmé ..	Par l'officier Bulgare, Massaloff.

No. 171.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 218.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 9, 1880.

TELEGRAM was sent by the Minister of the Interior to the authorities at Bagdad and Busr some days ago, and communicated to me, ordering them to allow the steamer-vessels of Lyall Company to tow barges. It appears not to have reached them, and consequently there is reason to believe that it was stopped. I am making inquiries on the subject and have asked for an explanation. I have been constantly pressing the matter.

No. 172.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 10.)

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) *Paris, May* 10, 1880.

FRENCH Minister for Foreign Affairs says that he yesterday received from the French Ambassador at Berlin a résumé of a Circular from Her Majesty's Government, which had been communicated last Friday to the German Government, as to the presenting

an identic note to the Porte, demanding complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin. Minister for Foreign Affairs says further that he has sent résumé to the French Ambassador at London, who had not received Circular. I told his Excellency that I believed Her Majesty's Government desired that Lord Lyons, who was returning immediately, should bring a communication in the above sense to be made to his Excellency, with such explanations as might be necessary.

His Excellency was desirous of learning when Lord Lyons would arrive.

No. 173.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 10.)

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.)

Paris, May 10, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 86.

French Government have received similar communication from Russian Chargé d'Affaires as to collective declaration to the Porte respecting Montenegro. They have answered that they consider that it would be premature to make another declaration to the Porte until answer to the last is received; and also that, before any such collective declaration is made, they think that Powers ought to have agreed what the effective measures are to be.

I said that Her Majesty's Government were also of opinion that the Russian proposal was premature.

No. 174.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 308.)

Foreign Office, May 10, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your telegram No. 217 of the 9th instant, I have explained to your Excellency by telegraph that the omission to ask in the usual form whether Mr. Goschen's appointment as Ambassador would be agreeable to the Sultan was quite unintentional, and I requested you to make the inquiry in the manner you thought best.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 175.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 221.)

Foreign Office, May 10, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI called to-day to inform me that he had received a despatch from Baron Haymerle with regard to the Montenegrin difficulty, the contents of which had been much anticipated by what he had volunteered to say to me the day before yesterday. Baron Haymerle said that the Austrian Government would object to receive a mandate from Europe to use force to compel the restitution of the district ceded under the recent arrangement to the Montenegrins; they would equally object to such a mandate being given to Italy or to any other Power. He wished to know whether Her Majesty's Government agreed with the Austrian Government in this view.

I repeated what I had said on the previous occasion, that the employment of force on our part to compel unwilling populations to submit to annexation would be distasteful to us, and that such exercise of force might, in our opinion, lead to much complication; but I observed that if the Turks were unable or refused to fulfil their Treaty obligations in this respect, I considered the Montenegrins had a right to look to Europe for the fulfilment of the Treaty. Three alternatives were possible: (1) the Greek frontier might be settled, and then the Greeks, Montenegrins, and Albanians might be left to fight it out among themselves; this was, I said, not desirable; (2) a compromise might possibly be made with the Albanians by which they might be induced to cede the district in question without bloodshed; or (3) a compromise might be made with Montenegro which would give to that country an accession of territory in a quarter where the inhabitants would be willing to live under their rule.

Count Károlyi stated that, if force was not resorted to, Austria would be ready

to concert with her allies for any practical compromise of the nature which I have described.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 176.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Drummond Wolff.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 10, 1880.

I HAVE received your Confidential despatch of the 4th instant relative to the labours of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, and to the adaptation, under the provisions of Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, of the Organic Statute drawn up for that province to the other provinces of European Turkey.

I have to state to you that I have read this despatch with much interest, and I take this opportunity of conveying to you my best thanks for the valuable suggestions contained therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 177.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 1.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 10, 1880.

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Commissioner on the Eastern Roumelian Commission, I transmit to you herewith Her Majesty's Commission to that effect.

The Eastern Roumelian Commission was originally constituted under the XVIIIth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, to prepare, in concert with the Porte, an Organic Law for the administration of the province, but the XXIIIrd Article provided that the Porte should also consult it before promulgating the Acts for putting into force the schemes of organization which were to be drawn up under that Article for the other provinces of European Turkey.

This Organic Law having been completed, the Commissioners, after remaining sufficiently long to discharge their other duties in connection with it, adjourned until they might be summoned again under the XXIIIrd Article.

The Porte has now requested that the Commission may reassemble at Constantinople, and I have accordingly to instruct your Lordship to proceed thither to join the Commissioners of the other Treaty Powers.

Her Majesty's Government understand that instead of proceeding strictly in accordance with the terms of the Treaty, and deputing special Commissions to settle in each province the details of the new laws for examination by the Porte, the Turkish Government have themselves, in the first instance, prepared a draft of an Organic Law framed on the plan of that adopted in Eastern Roumelia, and that this draft has been sent to the provinces where local Commissions have been assembled, to advise upon it and to recommend such alterations as the circumstances of the several provinces may require.

According to the accounts received from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, the proceedings of two of these local Commissions, which have met respectively at Adrianople and Salonica, have been conducted to the satisfaction of the population, and your Lordship and the other Commissioners will therefore probably find in their Reports materials which can readily be converted into efficient Organic Laws.

It appears that a local Commission also met at Janina, and another at Kossovo, but Her Majesty's Government have received no definite information as to the results of their proceedings. The disturbed state of the country throughout Epirus, and the opposition shown by the Greek inhabitants of Janina to the appointment of a Commission at that town, have probably prevented any report being arrived at of a conclusive character, and which would fairly represent the wishes of the province.

The Eastern Roumelian Commissioners are, by the Treaty, only required to give their opinion upon the Acts with regard to which they are to be consulted by the Porte, but your Lordship may find that the question of the administration of the European provinces

generally will, at all events incidentally, also come before you, in which case you should consult with Her Majesty's Ambassador, and, if necessary, apply for instructions to Her Majesty's Government as to the course which you should pursue.

The Organic Statute for the Island of Crete having now been brought into operation under a Christian Governor who is acceptable to the population, affords an example of a system of administration which has successfully been introduced into a Turkish province, and it is mentioned in the Treaty as the model on which the laws for the other provinces should be drawn up, except as regards the exemption from taxation.

Your Lordship is authorized to call upon Her Majesty's Consul in Crete, as well as upon any other of Her Majesty's Consular officers in European Turkey, to give you any information and assistance which you may find useful, and Her Majesty's Government do not, therefore, think it necessary to indicate any special points to which your attention should be called, as you will be thus placed in possession of the fullest means of judging for yourself of the varying necessities of different localities. It is the desire of Her Majesty's Government that the Organic Laws should be so framed as to render equal justice to all classes of the community, with as large a measure of local self-government as the condition of the European provinces will admit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 178.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 4.) *Foreign Office, May* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I TRANSMIT herewith, for your Lordship's information, copies of the correspondence noted in the margin* relative to the reassembly of the European Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia, for the purpose specified in Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 179.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 212.) *Philippopoli, April* 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the French text of the Financial Law or Budget adopted by the Provincial Assembly on the 16th instant, and which will be submitted to the Porte for the sanction of His Majesty the Sultan.

The gross income and expenditure are estimated at £ T. 728,453 and evenly balanced, the ordinary receipts showing an excess of £ T. 4,634 over the ordinary expenditure.

In the Budget submitted to the Assembly by M. Schmidt, as stated in my despatch No. 177 of the 23rd instant, the ordinary revenue of the province was estimated at £ T. 665,537, and the ordinary expenditure at £ T. 668,338, or a deficit of £ T. 2,801.

As the details of the amended Budget have not been printed, I am not in a position to explain the character of the alterations that have been made by the Assembly in the proposals of M. Schmidt.

Your Lordship will see that the Assembly has authorized the raising of only £ T. 80,000 on Treasury bonds, instead of £ T. 125,000, as proposed by M. Schmidt.

Unless some money is at once obtained by the issue of such Treasury bonds, the Provincial Government will probably be unable to meet the whole of its current expenditure for the next few months, the bulk of the taxes being payable later in the season.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

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* See Part XLVIII, Nos. 219 and 311; *ante*, Nos. 49, 51, 52, and 78; and to Mr. Michell, May , 1880.

Inclosure in No. 179.

Extract from "Maritza" of April $\frac{8}{20}$, 1880.

Loi de Finances pour l'Année Financière 1880-81, *adoptée par l'Assemblée Provinciale dans la Séance de Vendredi,* $\frac{4}{16}$ *courant.*

ARTICLE 1er. Le Budget de la Roumélie Orientale pour l'année financière 1880-81, annexé à la présente loi est fixé pour les dépenses à 72,845,346 piastres.

Savoir: 66,040,346 piastres dépenses ordinaires, et 6,805,000 piastres dépenses extraordinaires, et pour les recettes à 72,845,346 piastres.

Savoir: 66,503,770 piastres recettes ordinaires, et 6,341,576 piastres recettes extraordinaires.

Art. 2. La liste des dépenses pouvant donner lieu à des prélèvements sur le "fonds de réserve" inscrit au Chapitre 184 du Budget est annexée à la présente loi.

Art. 3. Le Directeur des Finances est autorisé à émettre, pour les besoins du service de la Trésorerie, des bons du Trésor avec ou sans intérêt.

Le montant total des bons du Trésor qui pourront être tenus en circulation, ne dépassera pas la somme de £ T. 80,000.

Art. 4. Le remboursement des bons du Trésor et le paiement des intérêts est effectué sur les fonds disponibles de la Trésorerie.

Art. 5. L'émission des bons du Trésor sera déterminé par un Règlement d'administration publique.

Art. 6. Dans le cas où l'émission de ces bons ne serait pas trouvé pratique, le Gouvernement est autorisé à contracter, avec le concours du Comité Permanent, un emprunt pour la somme de £ T. 80,000.

Liste des Dépenses qui pourront donner lieu à des prélèvements sur le "Fonds de Réserve," annexée à la Loi de Finances de l'Exercice 1880-81.

Des objets pour lesquels des dépenses pourront être effectuées en prélevant des sommes sur le "fonds de réserve" inscrit au Chapitre 184 du Budget de l'année financière 1880-81 sont les suivants:—

1. Indemnité aux habitants qui logent des miliciens.
2. Supplément pour la nourriture de la troupe et de la cavalerie en cas de cherté des vivres et fourrages.
3. Traitement supplémentaire des fonctionnaires de nationalité étrangère.
4. Remboursement aux ayants-droit des revenus de leurs biens, encaissés par le Trésor, en cas d'insuffisance du solde encore existant des sommes conditionnelles.
5. Entretien des détenus en cas de cherté des vivres et d'insuffisance de la somme portée au Budget.
6. Frais d'émission et intérêts des bons du Trésor.

No. 180.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 215.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April* 26, 1880.

UNDER Article 494 of the Organic Statute the salary of the Governor-General is fixed at £ T. 3,000 per annum, to which is added a sum of £ T. 1,000 per annum for "frais de représentation."

He is also entitled to a residence furnished at the expense of the province.

The same article explicitly states that "this salary cannot be modified."

I regret, however, to be compelled to report to your Lordship that the Governor-General has asked and obtained from the Provincial Assembly, under the Budget for the current year, the following additional sums, viz.:—

For—	£ T.
Purchase of carriages and horses	1,200
Stable expenses, liveries, &c.	741
Travelling expenses	800
Privy purse, credit at disposal of the Governor-General	1,380
Total	4,121

His Excellency has contended that a furnished residence must include carriages and horses purchased and maintained at the expense of the province.

In the estimates submitted to the Assembly by M. Schmidt the total expenditure under this head was set down at £ T. 741; but the Governor-General made a direct application to the Assembly for £ T. 1,200 more for the purchase of four horses, and the sum was granted notwithstanding the opposition of the Greek Deputies.

As regards the "travelling expenses," although it may perhaps be admitted that when the Governor-General travels on public service his expenses ought not to be charged to his "frais de représentation," yet the grant of a fixed sum per annum, which the Governor-General may or may not expend, appears to be as great a departure from the letter and spirit of the Organic Statute as the grant for carriages and horses and stable expenses.

The Governor-General had asked for £ T. 1,000 for travelling expenses, but the Assembly voted only £ T. 800.

The "credit at the disposal of the Governor-General" (£ T. 1,380) partakes of the character of a "Secret Service Fund," unless indeed it be also destined to increase in part the personal emoluments of the Governor-General. The amount is paid to his credit at the Ottoman Bank in monthly instalments.

In the previous Budget a monthly allowance of £ T. 100 had been placed at the disposal of his Excellency for the avowed object of enabling him to supplement the curtailed salaries of deserving Directors and other officials. In the estimates for the current year the Governor-General asked for the following grants:—

	£ T.
Credit at his disposal	1,200
Representation expenses of higher officials	1,680
Total	2,880

This was, however, reduced to £ T. 1,380, as above stated, being an increase of £ T. 15 per month to the allowance of £ T. 1,200 per annum, which had figured in the previous Budget.

It is evident that, by obtaining such additional grants, the independence which the Organic Statute had intended to secure to the Governor-General by fixing and limiting the amount of his emoluments has been imperilled.

The Bulgarian members of the Assembly are naturally inclined to lay under obligations a Governor-General whose parsimony and love of money are notorious, provided he continues, as at present, to obey their will.

On the other hand, by placing at his disposal a personal credit of £ T. 1,380 per annum, the same politicians enable his Excellency to reward such of the Directors and other officials who will co-operate with him unhesitatingly in the furtherance of Pan-Bulgarian objects.

I trust, therefore, that when the Budget is submitted to the Porte for confirmation this important and significant violation of Article 494 of the Organic Statute will not pass unnoticed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 181.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April* 27, 1880.

IN the estimate submitted to the Provincial Assembly M. Schmidt had made provision, under the head of "Expenditure" in the Department of Finance, for the payment of the sum of £ T. 125,000 due to the Porte in quarterly instalments as the share of the province in the general charges of the Empire during the current year, under Article 16 and Appendix 9 to Chapter VII of the Organic Statute.

On the motion of M. Velitchkoff, one of the leading Bulgarian agitators, who taxed M. Schmidt with an exhibition of greater solicitude for the "debts of dishonour" than for the "debts of honour" of the province, the item of £ T. 125,000 was removed from the estimates of the Department of Finance and relegated to the end of the Budget, where it now appears as a special charge after "Unforeseen Expenditure."

This transfer betrays an apprehension lest M. Schmidt should have effected the

payments due to the Porte with too much eagerness and facility, owing to their being included in the estimates of his own Department.

I have, indeed, reason to believe that measures have already been adopted with the object of disputing or repudiating those payments.

They consist in the collection of a number of petitions from Bulgarians claiming from the Assembly the payment of considerable sums alleged to be due to the petitioners by the Porte, under the head of "Supplies, Indemnities, &c."

Consequently, there is every reason to fear that the first payment, due on the 1st/13th June next, will be refused on the ground of a legal attachment or lien on behalf of alleged creditors.

The financial difficulties into which the province will most probably be plunged, owing to the anticipated failure of the crops and to other causes (not excepting the resignation of M. Schmidt), will imperil still further the satisfaction of the financial claims of the Porte under the Organic Statute.

It is also my duty to point out that no provision is made in the Budget for the payment of the £ T. 5,000, to which the Porte is entitled under Article 17 of the Organic Statute.

M. Schmidt had inserted that amount in his original estimates, but it was struck out at a meeting of the Privy Council, the Bulgarian members of the latter insisting that it was included in the £ T. 125,000 mentioned in Article 4 of Appendix 9. This argument was based in the fact that in Article 6 of the same Appendix the £ T. 5,000 are merged in the maximum of £ T. 240,000 per annum, and on the theory that the latter sum was in reality reduced to one-half, or £ T. 120,000, the balance, or £ T. 5,000, representing the commutation of the customs duty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 182.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 221.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April* 27, 1880

THE "Maritza" frequently publishes citations issued by the several local Tribunals in this province in the matter of actions brought against Mussulmans by Bulgarians for moneys alleged to be due to the latter. In the last number of that journal there are four such citations, the defendants being described as resident "at Constantinople" or "beyond the frontier." In each case, notice is given that in the event of non-appearance by a certain date Judgment will be given by default, in conformity with Articles 67 and 68 of the Ottoman Commercial Code.

There is much reason to fear that some of these claims are fictitious and devised for the purpose of despoiling absent Mussulmans of their property in this province.

The defendants are of course little likely to hear of a citation published in the Bulgarian language at Philippopoli, and it is also more than probable that some of them are prevented from returning to Eastern Roumelia in consequence of the refusal of Aleko Pasha (alleged to be founded on an agreement with the Porte) to permit the repatriation of Mussulmans of bad antecedents, that is to say, of Mussulmans of large and enviable estate.

The latter course is a violation of Article 27 of the Organic Statute, and I am surprised that it should have been so long tolerated by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 183.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 222. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, April* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith translations from the originals of two letters in my possession, addressed to the Local Gymnastic Society by the "Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Societies in Southern Bulgaria" under date, respectively, of the 6th and 17th February last.

The first letter is signed by Dr. Stranski as President, and by Dr. Yankoloff as Secretary of the Central Administration or Committee; the second by Dr. Stranski as President, by M. Kalchoff (without any designation of his office), and by M. J. M. Sviriachoff as Secretary.

As your Lordship is already aware from my despatches, Dr. Stranski has acted as Vice-President of the Provincial Assembly during the two last Sessions. He is also a member of the Permanent Committee; and it is he who led the attack on M. Schmidt, which resulted in the resignation of the latter.

At the date of the first letter Dr. Yankoloff was a leading member of the Permanent Committee. During the tenure of that office, according to a statement made by Dr. Vulcovitch, he was in receipt of a salary of £ T. 50 per month from the Gymnastic Societies. He was later appointed Prefect of the department of Bourgas.

M. Kalchoff was Sub-Director of Finance under M. Schmidt. His character is described in my despatch No. 161 of the 27th ultimo.

Lastly, M. Sviriachoff is the Secretary of M. Kessiakoff. His correspondence with M. Matiufski, whose name was attached to the Circular against the Greeks, is mentioned in my despatch No. 185 of the 10th instant.

The letter dated the 6th February entirely confirms the opinion which I gave on the subject of the conversion of the gymnasts into reserves of the militia. The Central Committee urges that the Ordinance of the Governor-General of the [illegible] should be carried into execution as quickly as possible, taking care at the same time that the future "reserves should not differ in any way from the previous gymnasts."

It likewise confirms the impression which I communicated to your Lordship as to the effect that the Bulgarian agitators were beginning to experience a difficulty in keeping up the military and patriotic zeal of the gymnasts.

The Gymnastic Society of Philippopoli is reminded that the national rights have not yet been fully acquired, and that even the maintenance of the rights already acquired is dependent on military instructions.

The second letter, dated the 17th February, is in the form of a Circular addressed by the Central Gymnastic Committee to the affiliated Committees, requesting the latter to send representatives to a General Meeting convened for the 4th March, for the purpose of deciding:—

1. Whether it was necessary that the Committees should continue to exist.
2. To ascertain the amount of money held by the several Committees, and the manner in which such money should dealt with in future.

These instructions were issued the day before M. Crestovitch signed the Circular of which I transmitted to your Lordship a translation in my despatch No. 91 of the 27th February. In that Circular the Secretary-General informed the Prefects that the Gymnastic Societies had been abolished by Ordinance of the Governor-General, and "would no longer exist under any pretext whatever, under the name of Gymnastic Societies, Benevolent Societies, or under any other similar designation."

The Prefects were likewise instructed that it was "strictly prohibited to all persons to impose or collect taxes," &c., "without a written approval or permission from the legal authorities."

Since the Ordinances of the Governor-General of the 12th November were actually negotiated with the representatives of the Gymnastic Societies assembled in Congress at Philippopoli (the final sitting of which was held at the Russian Consulate-General) it cannot be supposed that the Central Committee had been left in ignorance by M. Crestovitch as to the measures which the discoveries made by M. Schmidt had compelled Aleko Pasha to adopt.

Nevertheless, the Circular of the 17th February, issued by the "Central Administration of the Gymnastic Societies in Southern Bulgaria," shows that the Societies had little intention of complying either with the Ordinance of the Governor-General, or with the instructions that were to be issued next day to the Prefects.

Your Lordship will perceive, from the tone of the Circular of the 17th February, that the question of the continued existence of the Gymnastic Societies was decided beforehand in the affirmative.

The Central Committee expressed a "firm hope and belief" that the affiliated Committees had at heart the "continued existence" of the Societies, and a warning was conveyed to the effect that "the existence of the Gymnastic Societies may be endangered" if the members are not prohibited from carrying their rifles when not under instruction.

The Central Committee even requested to be informed what amount of money could still be raised by the Societies "without any violence."

As regards the anxiety of the Committee to ascertain the amount of capital in the possession of several Societies, the evident object in view was the concentration of those funds in safe hands, viz., in the Bulgarian Bank at Sophia, to which, I believe, some of the funds of the Gymnastic Societies have already been transferred.

The inclosed translation of an original notice (likewise in my possession) convoking a General Meeting of the members of the local Gymnastic Society on the [illegible] last, gives the names of the principal Pan-Bulgarian agitators, most of whom hold public offices.

The notice is signed by Mr. Péef, Mayor of Philippopoli, as President *ad interim*, and by the well-known D. N. Matiufski, as Secretary to the Gymnastic Committee.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure 1 in No. 183.

Letter from Central Gymnastic Committee.

(No. 92.)

Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Societies in Southern Bulgaria, Philippopoli, [illegible] 1880.

(Translation.)

To the Administration of the Gymnastic Society at Philippopoli.

BY our Circular of the 1st November we had the honour to acquaint you with the intentions of the Government in respect to the Gymnastic Societies. The Ordinances published in the local journals have explained and confirmed those intentions, which sooner or later will be carried into execution. At the same time, as we have already reminded you, the object which existed when the Gymnastic Societies were formed must be pursued in the future as it has been pursued in the past, since our position is not in the slightest degree changed. We do not, however, mean to say that it is not necessary that we should submit to the above-mentioned Ordinances. On the contrary, we ought to strive to carry them into execution as quickly as possible, taking care at the same time that the future reserves should not differ in any way from the previous Gymnasts as regards the object in view, and particularly in respect to drill and discipline.

We firmly hope and believe that the honourable Administrations of the Gymnastic Societies understand well and thoroughly the position in which our country is placed, and consequently that they will spare no labour, no effort, and no zeal in order to render those Societies perfect, even under the name of "Reserves."

We have, however, heard from private sources with great regret that, in some localities, drilling has almost ceased, and that the Societies exist only in name. We hope this is not the fact, but in any case, in order to divest ourselves of all responsibility, we consider it to be our duty to remind the Societies to which the above-mentioned rumours refer that our national rights have not yet been fully acquired, and that in order to secure the rights that we have acquired already, it is necessary that we should rely above all upon our military instruction, in which ought to lie our principal strength.

We beg again, and in the interest of the Societies themselves, that you will inform us of the amount of capital in ready money at present at the disposal of your Society.

The Central Administration:

(L.S.) (Signed) Dr. STRANSKI, *President.*
Dr. YANKOLOFF, *Secretary.*

Observation.—The inscription on the seal is: "Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Societies of Southern Bulgaria." The device is a wheatsheaf.—T. M.

Inclosure 2 in No. 183.

Circular from Central Gymnastic Committee.

(No. 99.)

Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Societies in Southern Bulgaria, Philippopoli, February $\frac{5}{17}$, 1880.

(Translation.)

To the Administration of the Gymnastic Society at Philippopoli.

M. le Président,

AT one of its last meetings held in view of a variety of requirements in respect to the position of the Gymnastic Societies, the Central Administration resolved to convoke a general meeting of the representatives of the Gymnastic Societies. We therefore request you, M. le Président, to propose to your Society that it should elect a representative who shall be authorized to adopt all such resolutions as shall be binding, as regards their execution, on the whole of your Society.

The Assembly will be opened on the 21st February/4th March without fail.

Amongst other questions the Assembly will decide finally: (1) Is it necessary that the Administration of the Gymnastic Societies should continue to exist? and (2) the amount of capital which they possess, and what is to be done with it.

In order that your representative should be able to take a useful part at the general meeting, it is necessary that he should be supplied with all such details as the following: The position and the desires of your Society; the amount of its capital in ready money, as well as the amount which it could still raise without any violence.

We also consider it necessary and useful to remind you that the carrying of rifles by Gymnasts, outside the hours appointed for drill, should be prohibited to all members, otherwise the existence of the Gymnastic Societies may be endangered.

We have firm hope and belief that since you have at heart the continued existence of our Societies, you will give serious attention to our proposals.

Accept, &c.

The Central Administration,

(L.S.) (Signed) Dr. G. STRANSKI, *President.*
KALCHOF.
IV. W. SVIRIACHOFF, *Secretary.*

Note.—The seal bears the following inscription: "Central Administration of the Gymnastic Rifle Societies in Southern Bulgaria." The device in the centre of the seal is a wheatsheaf.—T. M.

Inclosure 3 in No. 183.

Convocation of Meeting of Gymnastic Society.

(Translation.)

Gentlemen,

ON Sunday, the 25th instant, after Church service, the members of the Gymnastic Society will hold a meeting at the Central School for the examination of certain questions of great importance.

It is indispensable that all members of the Society should attend the meeting.

District Gymnastic Rifle Society, Philippopoli, November 24/December 4, 1879.

(L.S.) (Signed) K. FEEF, *President ad interim.*
D. N. MATIUFSKI, *Secretary.*
(Here follow the original signatures.)

No. 184.

Mr. Michell to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 236. Most Confidential.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, April 30, 1880.*

I HAVE reported to your Lordship, in my despatch No. 211 of the 24th instant, the reasons which M. Schmidt has officially given for his resignation of the office of Director of

Finance in this province, but it is my duty to acquaint your Lordship that the reasons that have been given by M. Schmidt have had in reality no influence whatever in determining the lamentable course which he has chosen to pursue at the present moment.

His reply to the charges brought against him by the Provincial Assembly shows the groundlessness of these accusations; while the flagrant violations of the Organic Statute by the Governor-General which he has enumerated, not in extenuation of his own nominal shortcomings but as showing, at the least, the difficulty which a young and inexperienced Administration must inevitably encounter in the application of a new Constitution, prove with equal force that the censure which he has incurred is purely factious, and derived from the fear which his previous loyal, sensible, and consistent political conduct had inspired amongst those who are determined to convert the province into a Southern Bulgaria, in defiance of the will of the great Powers.

Lastly, it appears to me that the grounds on which he has offered his resignation, namely, those of the failure of the Governor-General to redeem the promises which he made to him in January last, have been advanced inopportunely.

They have been in operation for the last three months, and being likely to continue in existence for some time longer, M. Schmidt ought either to have availed himself of them earlier, or to have awaited a crisis at which he might have been promptly and efficiently supported by the Powers interested in his retention of office, for the political and material welfare of the province.

However plausible in itself may be the pretext given by M. Schmidt, yet his resignation cannot be regarded otherwise than as a weak submission to the vote of censure passed upon him by a majority of the Bulgarian members of the Assembly.

This is all the more deplorable, since it will undoubtedly encourage the Pan-Bulgarian party to employ the same means for the riddance of other Europeans who may become obnoxious by their opposition to certain plans.

My Austrian colleague joined me in urging M. Schmidt to withhold his resignation, at all events for some weeks, and to confine himself, on the present occasion, to a justification of his conduct. Her Majesty's Ambassador had enabled me to assure him that he would have the strong support of the Ottoman Porte, and at the last moment I conveyed to him the substance of a telegram which I had received from Sir H. A. Layard, to the effect that both in his Excellency's opinion, and in that of the Austrian Minister, M. Schmidt ought not in any case to resign.

We combatted all his arguments, which were ostensibly to the effect that he could no longer practically discharge his duties satisfactorily, owing to the opposition that he would encounter even among his own subordinates.

The obsequious marks of sympathy and respect which the latter offered to him before his departure for Constantinople proved the correctness of an exactly opposite view of the situation. I assured M. Schmidt that an exhibition of moral courage and determination would inspire his Bulgarian opponents with fear and respect, most favourable to his future influence.

M. Schmidt then fell back on the argument that his resignation would be opportune, since the finances of the province were in a hopelessly bad condition, owing principally to the unfavourable prospects of the next harvest. To this I replied in the strongest possible terms that his abandonment of the province under such circumstances would be viewed very unfavourably by the Powers which had a real interest in the prosperity of Eastern Roumelia, and which had given proof of their confidence in his zeal and ability.

At last, M. Schmidt declared he was tired of the sterile struggle in which he had been so long engaged, and was determined to obtain repose and peace of mind.

While making every allowance for the absence of political training in the career of M. Schmidt, I regret to be compelled to record my opinion that he yielded at the last moment and stultified the whole of his previous official conduct by a weak subservience to the interests of his countryman, General Strecker, who urged that since the Porte and the Western Powers had given no practical proof of their determination to support him, the only sensible course was to precede General Strecker and all other foreigners in quitting the service of the Porte in this province.

I more than suspect that General Strecker had been strongly instigated to give this advice by the Russian Acting Consul-General, who probably represented to him that his own tenure of office—so necessary in the interest of his large family—could only be secured by the departure of M. Schmidt.

This suspicion is confirmed by the fact that, since the resignation of M. Schmidt, both Captain Ecke, the Russian Military Agent, and the members of General Strecker's family, have stated that there is no probability whatever of General Strecker being compelled to resign his command.

In the absence of all control on the part of M. Schmidt, General Strecker will become a facile instrument for the prosecution of Russian designs in this province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

No. 185.

Sir A. H. Layard to Her Majesty's Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No 469.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 28, 1880.

IN transmitting to your Lordship Mr. Consul-General Michell's despatch No. 211 of the 24th instant, sent through me under flying seal, I cannot but call the serious attention of Her Majesty's Government to the letter of M. Schmidt to Aleko Pasha, which it incloses, describing the flagrant violations of the Organic Statute by the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia and his advisers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 186.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 11.)

(No. 473.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, April* 29, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the *note verbale* which was sent last night by the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to my colleagues and myself in reply to our collective note of the 24th instant, a copy of which was transmitted to Lord Salisbury in my despatch No. 454 of the 25th instant. I telegraphed to your Lordship this morning the substance of his Excellency's communication, and informed you that we agreed in thinking that, under the circumstances, it was not desirable for us to take any further steps in the matter without instructions from our respective Governments. Your Lordship will perceive that Sawas Pasha virtually admits the accusation, made against the Porte by the Prince of Montenegro, of having violated the Memorandum or Agreement entered into by his Chargé d'Affaires and Sawas Pasha for the cession of territory in exchange for Gusinjé. Only about eight hours' notice instead of twenty-four, as agreed, was given of the evacuation of the positions held by the Turkish troops. To assume, as the Porte does, that because the Montenegrin Commander offered no objection to the hour fixed for the evacuation, he admitted that the eight hours accorded to him were sufficient to enable him to take his troops to the positions to be occupied by them, is no justification for the violation of a solemn engagement. The telegram from the Governor-General of Scutari, a copy of which accompanies Sawas Pasha's note, seems to show conclusively that the armed bands of Albanians and others were permitted, either to enter the positions held by the Turkish troops as soon as they retired, and before the Montenegrins could reach them, or to place themselves between those positions and the advancing Montenegrins. In either case the agreement was further violated.

The Governor-General of Scutari maintains that all the Powers were perfectly well aware that the populations of the ceded districts would oppose the advance of the Montenegrins. It was precisely because there were grounds for suspecting that, in consequence of the intrigues and bad faith of the Turkish local authorities, if not of the Porte, such would be the case, that Count Corti insisted upon the insertion in the Memorandum, signed by Sawas Pasha and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires, of the stipulation that twenty-four hours' notice, that is to say, ample time for the necessary military operations, should be given to the Commander at Podgoritza of the evacuation of the positions held by the Turks, which were not to be abandoned till the Montenegrins were ready to enter them.

The Governor-General of Scutari further states that, because the Powers were aware of the resistance contemplated by the population, the Porte had declined beforehand all responsibility for what might happen after the evacuation, and that an understanding to this effect had been come to. But, in the first place, the armed resistance, as the evidence furnished by the Porte itself tends to prove, took place before and not after the evacuation; and in the second place, although in the agreement it was stipulated that the Turkish

Government should not be responsible for the maintenance of public order within the ceded territory, it was not understood thereby that it should be relieved from responsibility for attacks upon the Montenegrins coming from without, and, there is every reason to believe, instigated by the Turkish authorities themselves, and directed by officers in the Turkish service.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 186.

Sawas Pasha to the Ambassadors at Constantinople.

Sublime Porte, le 28 *Avril,* 1880.

LA Sublime Porte, en réponse à la communication qui lui a été faite le 24 courant, par leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin au sujet de l'évacuation du territoire à échanger avec le Monténégro, a l'honneur de leur soumettre les informations et explications suivantes :

La Sublime Porte affirme qu'elle est en mesure de prouver que dès le lendemain de la signature du Protocole, c'est-à-dire, en ne prenant que le temps strictement nécessaire pour en arrêter la rédaction, les instructions destinées à assurer l'exécution du mémorandum ont été expédiées au Gouverneur-Général de Scutari, dont l'accusé de réception est parvenue à la Sublime Porte le lendemain matin.

Il est vrai que l'avis donné au Commandeur de Podgoritza n'a pas été remis vingt-quatre heures mais seulement huit heures environ avant celui qui avait été fixé pour l'évacuation des positions ; ce qui provient, d'une part, de ce que le Gouverneur-Général n'a point compris que la réception de l'avis à Podgoritza devait procéder de vingt-quatre heures le moment de l'évacuation, et d'autre part, de ce que le messager a été accidentellement retardé dans son voyage de Scutari à Podgoritza. Mais il résulte d'informations précises que la Sublime Porte se fait un devoir de communiquer à leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances, que ce malentendu n'a point eu d'influence sur l'opération de l'évacuation du territoire. Il est en effet avéré :

1. Que le Commandant Monténégrin n'a élevé aucune objection contre la fixation de l'heure de l'évacuation, reconnaissant ainsi que les huit heures qui lui restaient encore étaient suffisantes pour amener les troupes sur les lieux. (Annexe No. 1.)

2. Qu'en réalité les troupes Monténégrines sont arrivées sur les lieux alors que les troupes Ottomanes occupaient encore les positions à évacuer, et que l'évacuation n'a été réellement effectuée qu'à l'heure précise qui avait été indiquée. (Annexe No. 23.)

3. Qu'enfin si les troupes Monténégrines n'ont point pris possession des positions lorsque les troupes Ottomanes les ont abandonnées, ce n'est point en raison du malentendu qui s'est produit dans la fixation de l'heure de l'évacuation, mais par suite d'une circonstance absolument indépendante de la volonté des autorités Ottomanes, laquelle circonstance se serait produite dans tous les cas, et qui était inévitable à la suite des Proclamations qui avaient fait connaître prématurément dans la contrée les stipulations du mémorandum.

La Sublime Porte se réserve de compléter ces explications et d'entretenir le plus tôt possible leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances des résolutions que cette situation peut nécessiter, mais elle doit déclarer dès à présent qu'elle repousse hautement tout reproche d'avoir volontairement entravé l'exécution du mémorandum, dont elle a toujours eu à cœur d'observer scrupuleusement les stipulations.

(Signé) SAWAS.

Telegrams to His Highness the Prime Minister.

J'ai l'honneur de transmettre à votre Altesse, *in extenso*, la réponse du Commandant Monténégrin à ma lettre et la Déclaration des Délégués envoyés à Podgoritza.

(Signé) IZZET.

Podgoritza, le $\frac{10}{22}$ *Avril,* 1880.

Excellence,

J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre dépêche datée du 21 Avril, 1880, qui ne m'est parvenue qu'à 8 heures et demie ce matin. En vous remerciant de la communication que vous avez bien voulu me faire, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) V. HUMENATZ, *Commandant de Podgoritza.*

Au Consulat de Sa Majesté le Roi d'Italie par devant moi, Consul d'Italie, dans cette Résidence, Chevalier F. Zerboni, se sont présentés aujourd'hui à 5 heures de l'après-midi, les Soussignés Pierre Tonietti, Drogman de ce Consulat, et Yacoub Agha, Capitaine Ottoman, Aide-de-camp de son Excellence le Vali de Scutari, Izzet Pasha, qui viennent d'arriver de leur mission à Podgoritza, et ont déclaré qu'ils ont remis au Voïvode Pop Elia Plamenatz dans sa même résidence à Podgoritza, le 22 du courant, à 8 heures A.M. à la Franque, 1 heure à la Turque. Une lettre scellée qui avait été confiée au Capitaine Yacoub Agha par son Excellence le Vali de Scutari, Izzet Pasha, lettre dans laquelle avait été, d'après ce qu'ils ont entendu, fixée l'heure de l'évacuation des territoires cédés.

Que de retour de cette mission, arrivés à l'entrée du Lac d'Helmi à 4 heures du soir du même jour—9 heures à la Turque—en regardant du bord avec une longue-vue le Fort d'Helmi, ils ont vu deux pavillons Ottomans d'abord s'enrouler sur l'Asta et peu de temps après disparaître et en même temps des soldats descendre de la montagne sur le lac. Arrivés à l'échelle d'Helmi une heure après ils y ont vu de même massé beaucoup de soldats Ottomans, de 1,200 à 1,300, calcul d'œil, qui, chargés de leurs effets et armes, étaient venus de Tousi, localité à une heure environ de l'échelle sus indiquée, tandis qu'on en voyait d'autres qui allaient arriver. Le Drogman de ce Consulat constate aussi qu'ayant pris des informations à l'échelle de Helmi de l'heure précise où la troupe Ottomane avait commencé à évacuer la Forteresse de Fusi, on lui a répondu que ce fait avait eu lieu à 9 heures précises à la Turque, c'est-à-dire, à 2 heures à la Franque.

En foi de quoi ce qu'ils ont exposé les comparants ont signé ce présent protocole de leurs propres mains.

Le Consul d'Italie,
(Signed) ZERBONI.

Telegram from the Governor-General of Scutari to His Highness the Prime Minister.

Scutari, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril*, 1880.

Réponse à votre télégramme d'aujourd'hui. Les principaux retranchements occupés par les troupes Turques sont les crêtes de montagnes Chichanik, Mutagos, et Helmi. En dehors de cela nous avons deux corps de garde composés chacun de quinze à vingt soldats. Le premier situé à la tête du pont Zem, l'autre à Dinoch. Les troupes Impériales ont évacué ces positions au délai fixé, c'est-à-dire, Jeudi à 9 heures, et se sont dirigées vers l'échelle Helmi, où elles sont arrivées à 10 heures sans aucun accident. De là elles ont été transportées sur bateau au moyen de barques et autres. Je suis persuadé, qu'une enquête impartiale à laquelle on peut procéder aurait pour résultat de confirmer entièrement le bien-fondé des faits que je viens d'avancer. La vérité est que le Commandant Monténégrin, effrayé des clameurs des montagnards qui se trouvaient bien en arrière, n'a pas osé avancer pour occuper les retranchements que les troupes Impériales ont évacués, et dès lors n'a pu prendre possession des positions évacuées. C'est dans l'espoir d'atténuer cette faute qu'il se livre à des accusations et à des calomnies contre nous—calomnies que nous repoussons énergiquement. Le Commandant Monténégrin à l'appui de sa prétention dit que la population l'a reçu à coups de fusil. Mais toutes les Puissances savaient parfaitement que la population s'opposerait par les armes à la marche des Monténégrins. C'est d'ailleurs pour cette raison que le Gouvernement Impérial a décliné d'avance toute responsabilité pour les faits qui pourraient se produire après l'évacuation et en a fait l'objet d'une entente.

En outre, le Rapport présenté par l'Aide-de-camp, Yacoub Effendi, et M. Tonietti, envoyés sur les lieux en mission, le premier par moi, et le second par le Consul d'Italie, constate que notre manière d'agir a été conforme à la décision intervenue.

No. 187.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 474.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, April 30*, 1880.

THE despatches addressed to your Lordship by Mr. Consul St. John, copies of which he has forwarded to me, contain so deplorable an account of the state of affairs in his Consular district that I have considered it my duty to address an urgent representation on the subject to the Porte, copy of which I have the honour to inclose. On a former occasion when I brought to the notice of the Turkish Government the statements made by Mr. St. John as to the persecution of the Christians they were met by a categorical denial. It will be seen by Mr. St. John's despatch to Lord Salisbury, No. 28 of the 25th March last, that, in order to give this denial, Sawas Pasha, in his telegram to Musurus Pasha of the 17th February, communicated to Lord Salisbury on the following day, assumed that they referred to Ichabé and not to Ipek, the place mentioned by Her Majesty's Consul.

I trust that the suspicions expressed by Mr. St. John as regards the conduct of Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha may prove unfounded. His Excellency has been considered by those who have had opportunities of being intimately acquainted with him, I may particularly mention Sir A. Kemball, to be one of the most honest and capable men in the Turkish service. It is probable that he has found himself shackled by orders from Constantinople, and that the want of energy of which he is accused by Mr. St. John may be attributed to the interference of the Palace, and to the determination of the Sultan not to come to a collision with his Albanian subjects.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 187.

Note Verbale.

Constantinople, le 30 Avril, 1880.

L'AMBASSADEUR de Sa Majesté Britannique regrette de dire que les rapports qu'il continue à recevoir de Prisrend font un tableau lamentable de l'état d'anarchie qui règne dans cette région de l'Albanie. La vie n'est plus garantie, et les assassinats sont d'occurrence presque journalière. Aucune tentative n'est faite pour arrêter et punir les meurtriers. Les Chrétiens sont exposés à toutes sortes d'outrages, et les autorités Turques se montrent impuissantes à les protéger. Même les résidences des Consuls sont exposées à la violation et leurs habitants à de sérieux dangers. Le 18 courant quinze hommes, armés de carabines Martini, ont pénétré de force dans le Consulat Russe, dans le but de s'emparer d'un maître d'école Grec Orthodoxe, qui, croyait-on, s'y était réfugié, et de l'assassiner. Ils étaient conduits par un certain Ramadan, l'assassin du télégraphiste du Commissaire Impérial, feu Mehmet Ali Pacha, qui est toujours en liberté; le reste de la bande se composait de trois zaptiés, et d'assassins reconnus. Il paraîtrait que le Consul de Russie ayant protesté auprès du Mutessarif contre cet outrage, et lui ayant reproché de permettre à des assassins de se promener ainsi armés, ce fonctionnaire l'a informé qu'il y avait des raisons politiques qui justifiaient cette tolérance. La personne qui est accusée d'avoir provoqué cette attaque sur le Consulat Russe est un certain Hadji Osman Effendi, soupçonné d'avoir organisé le massacre de Mehmet Ali Pacha et de sa suite. De cet incident la Porte ne manquera pas de comprendre le degré d'insécurité qu'offre la position du Corps Consulaire, qui se trouve en quelque sorte à la merci d'une bande de vrais assassins, tandis que les autorités Turques n'ont ni les moyens, ni le vouloir de le protéger.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté est informé qu'il est devenu impossible au clergé et aux réfugiés Catholiques de Yakova de rentrer dans ce district. Les villages Chrétiens qui s'y trouvent sont pillés par la population Musulmane et leurs habitants assassinés, torturés, ou violés. De plus le pays est maintenant menacé de famine, et dix-sept personnes sont mortes de faim dans le district de Prisrend au commencement de ce mois.

La famille de Coursan, dirigée par un employé du Gouvernement nommé Murtes Agha, est principalement impliquée dans la persécution des Chrétiens: on la dit protégée et encouragée par les autorités Turques, quoiqu'elle ait pris une part active dans le meurtre de Mehmet Ali Pacha. Parmi les autres qui maltraitent les Chrétiens se trouvent trois forcenés notoires, nommés Rustem, Teko, et Butcha, qui estorquent des taxes illégales à chaque mariage Chrétien, forcent les Chrétiens à cultiver leurs terres les jours

ouvriers [?] et les Dimanches sans paiement, et souvent, sans aucune raison plausible, obligent un village à leur payer 2,000 ou 3,000 piastres.

Entre autres exemples d'outrages commis récemment sur les Chrétiens on peut citer les suivants. La maison d'un certain Yovo Kovatchérich, dans le village de Partesch, à une heure de distance de la ville de Galan, a été attaquée par treize Musulmans, qui, après avoir pris tout ce qu'ils ont pu trouver, ont placé Yovo et ses deux fils sur un feu, et les ont très-gravement brûlés jusqu'à la taille dans le but de leur extorquer de l'argent. Ils ont ensuite violé sa femme, sa fille, et sa bru. Vers la même époque, et à une petite distance également de Galan, la maison de Yovin Gruich, dans le village de Liporitzn, a été forcée par trois Musulmans, qui n'ayant pas pu obtenir de l'argent, ont fait couler du plomb fondu sur la tête de l'infortuné.

L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté Britannique juge de son devoir d'appeler la plus sérieuse attention de la Sublime Porte sur l'état de choses qu'il vient de décrire. Il espère que les faits rapportés par le Consul de Sa Majesté à Prizrend, basés sur des informations suffisantes, ne rencontreront pas un démenti catégorique, ni ne seront attribué à des sources malveillantes, comme il a été fait précédemment dans un télégramme adressé à son Excellence Musurus Pacha le 17 Février dernier, dont il a communiqué copie à Lord Salisbury. Dans ce télégramme le nom de l'endroit où le Consul de Sa Majesté annonce que les assassinats ont été commis, et où un prêtre Catholique a été menacé de mort, et non pas tué, comme le dit le télégramme de son Excellence, a été changé d'Ipek en Ichtebe, et conséquemment le démenti était facile. L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté ose croire également que la Porte ne persistera pas à soutenir, comme dans le télégramme susmentionné, "Que la plus parfaite tranquillité et la plus parfaite harmonie entre Musulmans et Chrétiens existent dans ces localités." L'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté ne peut que croire que la Porte a été induite en erreur par les rapports des autorités locales lesquelles, en ne prenant aucune mesure efficace pour mettre fin à l'anarchie qui règne dans les districts de Prizrend, Yakova, Ipek, Pristina, et Galan, et pour protéger les sujets Chrétiens du Sultan, exposent le Gouvernement Ottoman aux plus graves responsabilités.

No. 188.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 478.)

Constantinople, May 2, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch to Lord Salisbury No. 466 of the 27th ultimo, I have the honour to forward herewith to your Lordship a petition which I have received from some of the principal Mussulman refugees from Kustendil respecting the opposition made by the Bulgarian authorities to their taking possession of and occupying their lands in that district.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 188.

Petition from certain Mussulmans of Kustendil.

(Translation.)

ACCORDING to the 12th Protocol of the Berlin Treaty, it was settled that all refugees from Bulgaria, possessing property, should either reoccupy their land, or let it or farm it in any way they might wish, or that they might sell it. Having learned this, and trusting in the clauses of a Treaty sanctioned by the Powers, the refugees of the Caza of Kustendil, in order to re-enter into possession of their property, some three months ago, intended to leave the places where they were scattered and to return to Kustendil, but upon their arrival at Eyeri Déré Pilenki, on the borders of Kustendil, they found that the Bulgarians had taken possession of their property and the road to Kustendil was closed. Thus, in addition to all their former misery, for two months they have been suffering in Eyeri Déré Pilenki, and though a few have secretly returned, they have not been able to reoccupy their property, and have suffered much at the hands of the Bulgarians, and most of them have returned to Pilenki. The Bulgarians are acting in direct opposition to the Treaty of the European Powers, and are perpetrating all kinds of oppressive acts. Seeing this, it is evident that now that the time for reoccupying the land has come they wish to deprive the refugees of all their rights. We pray that her British Majesty's Embassy may take steps to put an end to this tyranny, and to enable the refugees to reoccupy

their property, and if the period before settled be not found long enough, to cause another one to be fixed for occupying their possessions.

(Sealed by 39 land-holders of Kustendil.)

21 *Kimouni-Sani*, 1295 (*February* 2, 1880).

No. 189.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 482. Very Confidential.)

Constantinople, May 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Sultan invited me yesterday to Yildiz Kiosk. His Majesty told me that his object in wishing to see me was to learn whether I could inform him of the policy likely to be pursued with regard to Turkey by Mr. Gladstone's Government. I replied that a telegram which I had received from your Lordship that morning enabled me to answer his question, and I communicated to him its substance. His Majesty said that he had not seen a report from Musurus Pasha of his conversation with your Lordship, and added that he was as desirous as your Lordship could be that the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be executed without delay. Until they were, and the questions arising out of it with foreign Powers were settled, he could not devote all his attention, as he earnestly wished to do, to the reform of the Administration, and to the improvement of the internal condition of his Empire. His Majesty went on to say that he understood that there were three questions arising out of the Treaty which had to be dealt with: (1) the Montenegrin, which, however, he now considered as satisfactorily settled; (2) the new frontier to be given to Greece, upon which he would be glad to learn the opinion of Her Majesty's Government; and (3) the reforms to be introduced into the provinces, and especially in Asia Minor, a matter which was then engaging his earnest attention.

I expressed my surprise at His Majesty's statement that he considered the difficulty with Montenegro as having been satisfactorily settled. So far from such being the case, it had entered into a very serious phase. The agreement between His Majesty's Minister for Foreign Affairs, and the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires had been violated in the most essential points, and the Signatory Powers were now calling upon the Porte to replace His Majesty's troops in the positions they held before the evacuation, in order that the cession of territory to Montenegro might take place in strict accordance with the memorandum of the 12th April.

His Majesty answered that he had been assured by his Ministers that the terms of the Agreement had been scrupulously respected; that twenty-four hours' notice had been given to the Montenegrin Commander of the time of the evacuation of the positions held by the Turkish troops, and that they had not been withdrawn before the time assigned had elapsed. Consequently, as distinctly stipulated in the memorandum, he could no longer be held responsible for disorders which might occur in the ceded districts.

I replied that if His Majesty's Ministers had stated that the Agreement had been scrupulously carried out, they had deceived him. To convince himself that such was the case, His Majesty had only to refer to Sawas Pasha's note of the 28th ultimo to the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, in which it was admitted that, owing to a misunderstanding on the part of the Governor-General of Scutari, and for other reasons, only about eight, instead of twenty-four, hours' notice of evacuation had been given to the Montenegrin Commander, although it was maintained that this fact did not affect the question of the surrender. As to the Porte not being responsible for what might occur in the ceded districts, I reminded His Majesty that it was not so much the inhabitants of those districts who were offering armed resistance to the Montenegrins. The opposition came principally from without. Armed bands of Albanians, instigated and, by all accounts, led by persons in the service of His Majesty, and supplied with arms, ammunition, and provisions from Scutari, had taken possession of the positions on their evacuation by the Turkish troops, and before they could be reached by Montenegrins, in violation of the Agreement solemnly entered into by His Majesty with Montenegro. Turkey could not fail to be held responsible for those proceedings, and it was my duty to inform His Majesty that the Representatives of the Signatory Powers were about to address a note to the Porte insisting upon the immediate reoccupation by his troops of the evacuated positions, and their cession to Montenegro, in strict accordance with the terms of that Agreement.

His Majesty observed that it would be very difficult for him to do what we required. He was about, however, to send five battalions of troops to Scutari, with an officer in

whom he had complete confidence. He had every hope that the Albanians would, by strategem or persuasion, be withdrawn from the positions they had occupied. But as there was great excitement amongst them on the subject, he thought it would be desirable, in order to allay it, that two strategical fortified points on the heights, the names of which he had forgotten, should remain in the possession of the Albanians (I stated Turkish troops by mistake in my telegram of the 1st instant) for a month or six weeks, with the distinct understanding that at the end of that time they should be surrendered to the Montenegrins, who would be allowed to occupy at once the remainder of the ceded districts. He trusted that he might be able to come to an arrangement to this effect with Montenegro. He hoped that, under these circumstances, the note which I had referred would not be presented to the Porte.

I replied that it was now too late to prevent this communication from being made. The Signatory Powers were acting cordially together in the matter, and I had every reason to believe that they would insist upon the scrupulous fulfilment of the Agreement to which they had given their adherence by the Protocol of the 18th ultimo. I warned His Majesty of the very great danger that he was running in permitting the Albanians thus to defy his authority and to draw him into a serious misunderstanding with the Great Powers. The reports I had received led me to believe that encouragement had been given to them to assume this defiant attitude by persons in His Majesty's service. The consequences might in the end be very serious to His Majesty himself.

His Majesty merely observed that the matter was a very difficult one to deal with, adding significantly that he would be able to settle with the Albanians before long.

With regard to the Greek question I declined to give any opinion to His Majesty, as I was not yet informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government with regard to it.

As to the reforms to be introduced into the provinces I observed that the matter was one of the utmost importance, and that I could not urge too strongly upon him the great importance of dealing with it without delay. Her Majesty's Government, I said, could not fail to be deeply impressed with the deplorable condition of the populations and with the general maladministration and anarchy that prevailed in all parts of the Empire.

His Majesty said that he had been much occupied during the last few weeks in considering how the Constitution of Midhat Pasha, with a few necessary modifications to adapt it to the requirements and condition of Turkey, could be put into execution, and the Chambers, for which it provided, be called together. As Provincial Assemblies were contemplated by the new "Règlements," it was absolutely necessary that there should be a General Representative Assembly meeting at the capital. He had that morning, His Majesty went on to say, been talking with the Austrian Minister about the Constitutional system established in Austria-Hungary, and he was much impressed by what he had heard of the satisfactory working of that system, and especially of the Delegations. The Empire was prosperous and its populations contented, and the Emperor, relying with confidence upon the affection of his people, could enjoy peace and tranquillity. He wished that such were his fate. But, unhappily, he had come to the throne at an unhappy moment, and he was in want of men to carry out his intentions for the welfare of his people.

I ventured to reply that, if His Majesty left the administration of public affairs to able and honest Ministers, consulted the wishes of his people through a Representative Assembly, and abstained from too much interference in the Administration, he might look forward to the same happy fate as that of the Emperor of Austria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

P.S.—I have been informed that immediately after my audience the Sultan sent to the Porte for Sawas Pasha's note, to which I had referred him.

A. H. L.

No. 190.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 183.) *Constantinople, May 2, 1878.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's telegram No. 51 of the 5th April, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a letter which I have received from the Russian Chargé d'Affaires here, stating that the Russian Government propose

that the Second Commission on the delimitation of the Asiatic Frontier should begin its labours by the Khotour line, and that it should meet towards the 27th May next.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 190.

M. Onou to Sir A. H. Layard.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Péra, le* $\frac{10 \text{ Avril}}{1 \text{ Mai}}$, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le Gouvernement Impérial propose à la Seconde Commission de Délimitation Asiatique de commencer ses travaux par le tracé de Khotour. La Commission se réunirait à cet effet vers le $\frac{14}{26}$ Mai à Tiflis—lieu qui présente les mêmes avantages pour les communications tant avec Constantinople qu'avec Téhéran.

Le choix de cette localité répond également au désir du Délégué Persan. Selon l'avis de notre Délégué, la Commission devrait préalablement déterminer la direction de la frontière sur la carte Russo-Anglaise. Le Général Zélénoy pense que la ville de Tiflis offrirait le plus d'avantages pour l'accomplissement de ce travail, et qu'il serait inutile de se rendre à Khotour avant son achèvement. Le chemin le plus commode pour arriver à Khotour est celui qui se dirige de Tiflis sur Erivan et Hoi.

J'ai tout lieu d'espérer que le Général Hamley trouvera cette combinaison pratique et offrant toutes les facilités désirables.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) ONOU.

No. 191.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 487.) *Constantinople, May 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 473 of the 29th April, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Russian Chargé d'Affaires called upon me on Thursday last, to request me to call a meeting of the heads of Missions, who signed the Protocol of the 18th April, to consider the answer of Sawas Pasha to our identic note of the 24th ultimo. M. Onou said that upon further reflection he had come to the conclusion that his Excellency's reply could not remain without notice, and that it was our duty to take action upon it. Although I was aware that my other colleagues held a different view, and were of opinion that without instructions from our respective Governments, it would not be desirable to make any further communication to the Porte, I felt it my duty to comply with M. Onou's request. We accordingly met at the Embassy. M. Onou urgently insisted upon the necessity of answering Sawas Pasha's note by a categorical demand that the Porte should at once give orders for the reoccupation by the Turkish troops of the positions which they had engaged to cede to the Montenegrins. The Austrian Minister observed that he had already gone as far as he felt authorized to go. He had associated himself with his colleagues in pointing out to the Porte the grave responsibility it had incurred by violating the Agreement entered into with Montenegro, and in suggesting the reoccupation of the positions in question as the only way of avoiding the consequences; a further communication such as that suggested by the Russian Chargé d'Affaires could only be considered as an Ultimatum, with the alternative of war if it were rejected, and without positive instructions he could not commit his Government to such an extent.

The French Chargé d'Affaires stated that his Government after having been informed of Sawas Pasha's reply to our note, had at once instructed him to join with his colleagues in any step they might consider it necessary to take to prevail upon the Porte to place matters in the ceded districts in the same position as they were before the withdrawal of the Turkish troops in violation of the Agreement. He could only, therefore, act when his colleagues were unanimous on the subject. The German Ambassador and the Italian Chargé d'Affaires agreed with the views expressed by Count Dubsky, and declined to commit their Governments to a course of so grave a nature as that proposed by M. Onou. They considered that he had done all that it was incumbent upon us to do, that it would be useless to reply to Sawas Pasha's note and to enter into a controversy with him, and that

it was for our respective Governments, after communicating with each other, to decide upon the measures which they might think it necessary to adopt under the circumstances.

I informed my colleagues that I had applied to your Lordship for instructions, which I should probably receive on the following morning, and suggested that it was of great importance that we should be entirely agreed in our views before we took any further step, as any difference of opinion on our part would only encourage the Porte not to meet our representations.

M. Onou combatted our opinions with considerable warmth, declaring that he should inform his Government that diplomatic action here was exhausted; reproaching us with lukewarmness, and suggesting that Ambassadors had other functions than that of merely forwarding communications to the Government to which they were accredited, and finished by reminding us that Russia took a special interest in Montenegro, and was prepared to take such measures as were necessary to insure justice to the Principality. He ended, however, by accepting our decisions and agreeing to wait until we had all received such instructions as would enable us to act unanimously together.

On Saturday (1st instant) I received your Lordship's telegram, pointing out that the Porte had not stated whether the Turkish troops would reoccupy the territory which had been evacuated by them; your Lordship added that it would be well to know what his intentions were in this respect, and that a categorical answer on this point should be insisted on by the Signatory Powers. I immediately communicated with my colleagues and suggested that we should address a collective note to Sawas Pasha with this object. As they have now received instructions authorizing them to take this step, we, to-day, sent to his Excellency the communication of which I have the honour to inclose a copy.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 191.

Signatory Powers to Sublime Porte.

Constantinople, le 3 Mai, 1880.

LES Signataires du Protocole du 18 Avril ont le regret d'informer la Sublime Porte que sa réponse à leur note collective du 24 Avril ne peut à aucun point de vue être considerée comme satisfaisante.

Se référant à leur communication et d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements respectifs, ils ont l'honneur de prier la Sublime Porte de vouloir bien leur faire savoir catégoriquement et sous bref délai si elle est résolue ou non à réoccuper les positions qu'elle a irrégulièrement évacuées, et à procéder à la remise de ces points aux autorités Monténégrines, suivant les stipulations précises du mémorandum annexé au dit Protocole.

No. 192.

Sir A. H. Layard to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 11.)

Constantinople, May 4, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram of the 14th ultimo, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Vice-Consul Blakeney respecting the labours of the late Commission for the new Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 192.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

Prevesa, April 24, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to your Excellency's telegram of the 20th instant respecting the labours of the late Commission for the new Organic Statute, I have the honour to state

that M. Kypriotis reports on the 22nd instant that it was composed of twenty members—five Government officials, six Mussulmans, eight Christians, and one Jew, with the Vali as President. As regards their proceedings they have not been satisfactory, for besides differences of opinion in unimportant matters the Christians insisted upon the introduction of the Greek as well as of the Turkish language in the Tribunals, to which the Mussulmans would not agree. The same divergence of opinion existed in the drawing up of their Report; the consequence was that no Report in common was made. The Mussulmans forwarded their Report in Turkish, which was accompanied by another short one from the Vali, and the Christians drew up theirs in Greek and Turkish, which they transmitted to the Government through their Bishop, as the Vali had refused to accept it. So that little or no good is expected to result from the labours of the Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 193.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.—(Received at the Foreign Office May 11.)

Prevesa, April 24, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for the information of your Excellency, copy of a memorandum forwarded to me by M. Kypriotis, containing the names of six engineer officers who left Janina on the 30th ultimo for the purpose of examining and reporting upon the sites most adapted for the erection of military stations along the principal roads in Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

Inclosure in No. 193.

Memorandum.

(Translation.)

BIMBASHI HAMDI BEY, along the sea coast between Aulona and Delino.

2. Colagha Sekentzi Tali Sali Effendi to Argyrocastro, Samarina, and Conitz.

3. Colagha Moukedem Janina Zukte Effendi to Philiates and Sayada.

4. Yousbashi Tali Kiamil Effendi to Metzovo, Grevena, and neighbourhood.

5. Moulahzim, 12th blai, 2nd Tambour, Hafouz Esri, Effendi to Paramithia, Margariti, Kako-Souli, Parga, as far as Sayada.

6. Moulahzim 18th blai, 4th Tambour, Naim Effendi to Premeto, Berat, Colonia, and neighbourhood.

No. 194.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 69.)

Sophia, April 29, 1880.

My Lord,

BY telegram of the 24th instant, I had the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Zancoff had requested Nihad Pasha to furnish him with a list showing the numbers of the Mussulman refugees on the Bulgarian frontier, and the localities where these refugees were to be found. M. Zancoff had also expressed his readiness to enter into negotiations with Nihad Pasha in order to come to some arrangement with regard to the return of the refugees who were scattered over different parts of the Turkish Empire, as soon as Nihad Pasha should be officially appointed by the Porte. It was also arranged that if Nihad Pasha's official nomination should be received in time, the arrangements for the return of refugees on the frontier should be settled by him in conjunction with M. Zancoff. If on the other hand the official nomination should be further delayed, the arrangements were to be made by the Bulgarian authorities without the co-operation of Nihad Pasha.

Nihad Pasha at once telegraphed to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs, but as yet has received no answer, either as regards his official nomination or the list of the refugees on the frontier.

I have now the honour to inclose a copy of a Circular which M. Zancoff has addressed to the foreign Representatives at Sophia, giving a lengthy account of the negotia-

tions which have taken place on this subject, and arguing that the action of the Porte justifies the belief (1) that there are no refugees at present on the frontier; and (2) that the Sublime Porte has raised the question for the sole purpose of creating complications, and of discrediting the Goverment of the Principality in the eyes of Europe.

The refusal of the Porte to reply to Nihad Pasha's telegrams would certainly seem to show that the Turkish Government are not able to indicate the places on the frontier where the refugees are to be found, but there can be no doubt that numbers of refugees have attempted to return to Bulgaria, and have been stopped owing to the refusal of the Bulgarian Government to allow them to enter the Principality. It is not surprising that they should not have remained on the frontier where they would not have found means of subsistence; but, unless they have died of starvation, it ought to be an easy matter for the Turkish authorities to state where they are to be found, and their dilatoriness in furnishing this information affords an opportunity of which M. Zancoff eagerly avails himself to cast the blame upon the Porte.

The scarcity of corn, and the existence of brigandage in Bulgaria no doubt make the solution of the question more difficult, but if there had been a serious desire on both sides to settle the question, it would no doubt have been found possible to come to some satisfactory arrangement before this. As it is the Porte complains to Europe of the inhumanity of the Bulgarian Government, who reply by saying that it is the fault of the Porte that the question is not settled, and there does not seem to be any serious desire on either side to come to an arrangement.

With regard to the question of humanity, I very much doubt whether the condition of the refugees would be improved by their being allowed to return. Considerable distress prevails in the country. The price of bread has risen, and many of the Turks who are now here are anxious to leave in consequence of not being able to maintain themselves. An influx of destitute persons would probably increase the distress, and might lead to an increase of brigandage.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 194.

M. Zancoff to Mr. Lascelles.

(Circulaire.)
M. l'Agent, *Sophia, le* $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril*, 1880.

LES Agents Diplomatiques des Grandes Puissances ont bien voulu me donner communication de la note que son Excellence Sawas Pasha a adressé aux Ambassadeurs Ottomans près des différentes Puissances au sujet du rapatriement des réfugiés Turcs se trouvant aux frontières. Il résulterait de cette note que le Gouvernement Princier se refuserait catégoriquement à autoriser le rapatriement de ces Musulmans, et vous m'invitez à une entente préalable entre le Gouvernement Princier et la Porte Ottomane.

J'ai eu l'honneur de vous communiquer verbalement que le Gouvernement Princier n'a jamais eu l'intention d'interdire la frontière aux Musulmans émigrés en Turquie. Le Ministère Bulgare a cru devoir simplement prier le Gouvernement Impérial Ottoman d'interrompre toute expédition en masse de réfugiés n'ayant pas de moyens d'existence jusqu'à la fin de cet hiver si rigoureux.

Il va de soi que toute entrée individuelle n'a jamais été prohibée. Le Gouvernement Princier a cru devoir exiger de la Sublime Porte une liste détaillée des réfugiés afin d'apprécier les difficultés qu'il pourrait rencontrer et prendre des mesures à ce sujet d'accord avec le Gouvernement Turc. Je crois avoir porté à votre connaissance que la Sublime Porte n'a pas obtempéré à cette demande malgré toutes les insistances et la bonne volonté dont le Gouvernement Princier a donné des preuves si évidentes.

Mais au contraire, avec une persistance que je n'ose pas qualifier, elle a continué par des notes violentes ses accusations contre la population Bulgare et le Gouvernement Princier.

Tout ce que notre Gouvernement a pu obtenir est une liste de 18,000 réfugiés que la Sublime Porte désirait vouloir faire pénétrer dans la Principauté en plein hiver, sachant bien l'impossibilité dans laquelle nous nous trouvions de les installer et de subvenir à leurs besoins. Le Gouvernement de son Altesse le Prince s'est incliné avec empressement devant l'invitation qui lui a été adressée par le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois, appuyée par les autres Puissances, et n'a pas manqué de transmettre des ordres à son Agent auprès de la Sublime Porte afin d'insister pour la constitution d'une Commission Mixte chargée de formuler une entente écrite entre les deux Gouvernements. Ce projet qui devait être

élaboré par la sublime Porte n'était pas encore prêt lors du départ de notre Agent pour Sophia, le Ministère des Affaires Etrangères Ottoman n'ayant pas encore trouvé une base pratique à un tel travail.

Toute responsabilité des souffrances que les réfugiés pouvaient endurer, retombait donc de fait sur le Gouvernement Turc qui les forçait à ce rapatriement. Malgré ce mauvais vouloir si étrange de la part de la Sublime Porte, le Gouvernement Princier, je le répète, n'a jamais interdit le passage de la frontière aux réfugiés qui s'y trouveraient, quoique vous n'ignorez pas, M. l'Agent, les difficultés inhérentes à un tel rapatriement dans les circonstances actuelles de la Principauté: nous avons à lutter, en effet, contre deux graves fléaux: la famine qui sévit en plusieurs districts, et les bandes armées qui pénètrent dans la partie Orientale de la Bulgarie.

Je vais avoir l'honneur, M. l'Agent, de porter à votre connaissance en quelques mots l'état actuel des négociations entamées à ce sujet avec la Sublime Porte.

Son Excellence Nihad Pacha, Commissaire Impérial Ottoman pour les Vacoufs, m'a communiqué, il y a de cela quelque temps, un télégramme de son Excellence Sawas Pacha, par lequel le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de Turquie semble vouloir partager en deux catégories les réfugiés Musulmans, et prie Nihad Pacha de s'adresser à son Altesse le Prince afin qu'il daigne ordonner que ceux composant la première catégorie puissent franchir sans difficulté la frontière. Sawas Pacha ajoutait que pour la deuxième catégorie Nihad Pacha serait autorisé à s'entendre avec le Gouvernement Princier. J'ai immédiatement répondu à son Excellence Nihad Pacha que le Gouvernement de Son Altesse le Prince sera prêt à traiter cette question avec lui dès que la Sublime Porte l'aurait légalement autorisé à la représenter auprès du Gouvernement Bulgare; mais j'ai cru devoir ajouter que je ne voyais aucun empêchement à une entente préliminaire avec lui, et faire observer à son Excellence Nihad Pacha qu'il est à mon avis inutile de diviser les réfugiés en deux catégories, le Gouvernement Bulgare ayant raison de croire qu'il n'existe pas de réfugiés de la première catégorie à la frontière; mais en admettant même qu'il en existe quelques-uns, il nous sera facile de nous entendre en peu de jours si la Sublime Porte ne refusera pas sa coopération à cet accord. Je n'ai pas manqué de faire observer à Nihad Pacha que dans l'intérêt de tous, nous ne devions pas perdre de vue les mesures à prendre en considération de la famine et du brigandage qui sévissent surtout dans les districts peuplés de Musulmans. Il me semblait donc urgent que les réfugiés fussent munis de quelques moyens d'existence, ainsi que de provisions comme céréales etc., qui font défaut en Bulgarie. Je crus de mon devoir de faire noter à Nihad Pacha que bien des réfugiés Bulgares originaires du Gouvernement d'Adrianople et de la Macédoine ont été forcés par les incessantes persécutions Turques de chercher un asile dans la Principauté, que plusieurs de ceux-ci occupent actuellement des propriétés Turques, et qu'il sera difficile de les en expulser.

J'ajoutai enfin que parmi les soi-disants réfugiés Musulmans, un bon nombre n'appartient pas à la Bulgarie, et que d'autres sont bien connus par les atrocités dont ils se sont rendus coupables du temps de l'occupation Russe.

J'ai eu l'honneur de rapporter à Son Altesse le Prince l'entretien qui précède avec Nihad Pacha, et je suis heureux de pouvoir constater que son Altesse a daigné partager mon opinion et m'a immédiatement ordonné d'admettre dans la Principauté la prétendue première catégorie de réfugiés dès que j'aurai reçu communication officielle des pleins pouvoirs octroyés à Nihad Pacha.

Je me suis empressé de communiquer à M. le Comte de Khevenhüller, Agent Diplomatique d'Autriche-Hongrie, en sa qualité de Doyen du Corps Diplomatique, le désir exprimé par Son Altesse, et c'est avec son approbation que j'ai prié son Excellence Nihad Pacha de bien vouloir télégraphier à son Gouvernement afin d'obtenir sans retard des indications précises sur le nombre et les endroits où se trouveraient ces réfugiés de la première catégorie. Son Excellence Nihad Pacha m'a assuré qu'il télégraphierait en ce sens, mais depuis cette entrevue à la date du $\frac{3}{15}$ courant il n'est pas à ma connaissance que la Sublime Porte ait accordé à Nihad Pacha l'autorisation requise. J'ose espérer, M. l'Agent, que vous partagerez mon opinion sur les deux points suivants:—

1. Il n'existe actuellement à la frontière aucun réfugié à qui la libre entrée aurait été refusée, et que cette certitude acquise, le Gouvernement Bulgare est dans son droit d'exiger de la Sublime Porte une entente préalable.

2. Que la Sublime Porte, toujours prête à saisir la moindre occasion pour présenter sous un jour défavorable aux yeux de l'Europe le Gouvernement Princier, a soulevé cette question dans le seul but de susciter de nouvelles complications qui rendraient encore plus difficile l'organisation régulière des services intérieurs administratifs de la Bulgarie.

En vous priant, M. l'Agent, de bien vouloir transmettre à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement ce qui précède, je serai très-heureux d'obtenir en réponse les observations

que votre sagesse croira devoir m'adresser, dans le but de mettre fin à ces interminables et injustes réclamations.

Je saisis avec empressement cette occasion pour vous réitérer, M. l'Agent, l'assurance de ma très-haute considération.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) D. ZANCOFF.

No. 195.

Mr. Lascelles to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 70.)
My Lord, *Sophia, April 30, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a translation of the Address which has been voted by the Bulgarian Chamber in reply to the Prince's Speech. Some discussion took place with regard to the title by which the Prince should be addressed. In the Constitution the title given to the Prince is "Svetlos," which corresponds to "Altesse Sérénissime." His Highness, however, was anxious to be addressed by the title "Visochestvo," which corresponds to Altesse. The Chamber has now addressed the Prince by the latter title. M. Zancoff has informed me that the term "Svetlos" was introduced in the Constitution as being the highest princely title in the Bulgarian language, the term "Visochestvo" being Russian and not Bulgarian.

The Address expresses the satisfaction of the Chamber at the visit of His Highness to St. Petersburg, and the gratitude of the Bulgarians towards the Emperor of Russia. It also expresses satisfaction at the good relations which exist between Bulgaria and the Powers, and promises that the Chamber will give its serious attention to the projects of law which will be submitted to it. The Chamber trusts that the measures taken by the Government will put an end to the brigandage existing in the eastern portion of the Principality, and expresses the hope that the frontier of that part of Bulgaria may be determined without delay, as the uncertainty which at present exists with regard to the frontier, is one of the principal causes of brigandage.

The Chamber has now adjourned for the Easter holidays, and will probably reassemble on the 10th proximo, when the Government will submit the Budget, a proposal for the division of the country into districts, and the nomination of Prefects and Sub-Prefects, and a proposal for a reform of the Tribunals. I believe it is the intention of the Government to recommend the Prince to prorogue the Chamber, when those measures have been passed, and to summon it again in the autumn, by which time the Government will have been able to prepare the projects of law upon the other subjects mentioned in the Prince's Speech.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANC C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 195.

Address.

Altesse,

LES Représentants du peuple de la seconde Assemblée Nationale ordinaire sont très-heureux de pouvoir exprimer à Votre Altesse la vive gratitude du peuple pour la visite que vous avez bien voulu faire à notre Libérateur, Alexandre II.

Les félicitations présentées par Votre Altesse à Sa Majesté Impériale à l'occasion du vingt-cinquième anniversaire de son bienheureux et glorieux règne ont été le plus fidèle écho des sentiments de reconnaissance du peuple Bulgare, pour lequel la magnanime bienveillance de son Libérateur constitue l'inépuisable source de joie et de douces espérances.

Au nom du peuple tout entier, qui a été très-heureux de voir le bon et cordial accueil qui a été fait à Votre Altesse de la part de Sa Majesté Impériale, nous prenons la liberté de prier humblement Votre Altesse de vouloir bien présenter au pied du Trône du Grand Monarque Russe notre éternelle reconnaissance envers lui et envers le peuple Russe.

Nous nous réjouissons également beaucoup, tant pour les sympathies des autres Puissances de l'Europe envers notre jeune Principauté, que pour les bonnes relations qui existent entre elles et le Gouvernement de Votre Altesse.

L'élaboration des lois et des règlements, qui sont indispensables pour la bonne organisation de l'administration du pays, pour le progrès et le bien-être de la nation, a

toujours été et est notre plus sincère et plus ardent désir ; aussi prêterons-nous toute notre attention aux projets de lois et aux propositions qui nous seront soumis pour être examinés et approuvés par nous.

Le brigandage qui existe dans la partie orientale de la Principauté inquiète et incommode beaucoup les paisibles habitants de cette contrée.

Nous sommes sûrs que les mesures prises par le Gouvernement pourront bientôt mettre un terme à ce mal, mais nous ne pouvons néanmoins ne pas exprimer le désir de voir un instant plutôt les frontières déterminées dans cette partie de la Principauté, parce que le vague dans lequel se trouvent ces frontières est une des principales sources pour le développement et la prolongation du brigandage.

Altesse,

Le peuple Bulgare ayant une entière confiance dans les bonnes intentions de son élu pour le bien, le progrès, et la prospérité de l'Etat, adresse des ardentes prières au Tout-Puissant de bénir et d'affermir votre bras, pour la réalisation de ses justes espérances et de ses désirs séculaires sous le bienheureux règne de Votre Altesse.

Vive le Prince de Bulgarie Alexandre I!

(Suivent les signatures de tous les Députés.)

No. 196.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 72.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 3, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that General Erenroth, the successor of General Parenzoff, has recently arrived at Sophia, and has entered upon his duties as Bulgarian Minister for War.

I understand that General Erenroth, who is a native of Finland, and who held a command in the army of the Balkans during the late war, has been specially designated by the Emperor of Russia as likely to be of great assistance to the Prince of Bulgaria, without mixing himself up in political questions.

M. Zancoff has expressed to me his satisfaction at the appointment of General Erenroth, who he says is a man of sound constitutional ideas and of apparently considerable energy M. Zancoff has also informed me that General Erenoth intends to go himself to the eastern part of the Principality in order to inquire into the state of brigandage, and to see what measures it may be necessary to take to put an end to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 197.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 200.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 2, 1880.*

I HAVE had the honour to receive your telegram of yesterday's date referring to the instructions sent to Sir Henry Layard, and directing me to inquire what view is taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government of the present position of the Montenegrin frontier question.

I had already communicated these instructions to Baron Haymerle, with the expression of a hope that he would give some in the same sense to the Austrian Minister at Constantinople, but I wrote to him to-day to ask whether he could yet authorize me to inform your Lordship that he would do so.

In the reply which I received this evening from his Excellency, he said that he thought the Imperial Government could associate themselves in the step proposed to be taken at Constantinople, but that he could not give a positive reply till after he had talked the matter over with me to-morrow.

I am not yet, therefore, in a position to say more than this in the telegram I have just forwarded to your Lordship.

The Imperial Government appears to share the doubt, which has been so strongly expressed by Mr. Kirby Green, whether it is any longer in the power of the Porte to

reoccupy the abandoned positions, and this is, I imagine, the cause of their hesitation in making a demand which it may not be able to comply with.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 198.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 202.) *Vienna, May 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my yesterday's despatch No. 200, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that when I called upon Baron Haymerle this morning, he said that, being most desirous of acting in concert with the other Powers, and especially with Her Majesty's Government, he would at once instruct Count Dubsky to join his colleagues in calling upon the Porte to answer the demand they had made for the re-occupation by the Turkish troops of the positions they had adandoned on the Montenegrin frontier in a manner contrary to the engagement that had been taken.

His Excellency added, however, that, in every step that is taken in this matter, it will be advisable very carefully to consider how far it may lead. It may, for instance, turn out that the Porte declines to promise the re-occupation of the positions, or, as he thinks more probable, it may really prove unable to do so; and unless we are prepared for either of these eventualities there is a danger of drifting into some uncertain course.

He must, he says, avoid anything that would commit his Government to an active or material intervention; for he has no notion of allowing the blood of Austrain soldiers to be shed in a quarrel between the Montenegrins and the Albanians, and still less could he see with indifference an armed intervention by any other Power in those districts.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 199.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 204. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

FROM Baron Haymerle's language upon the position of affairs on the Montenegrin frontier I gather that he is in favour of a temporizing policy rather than the adoption of measures likely to lead to a collision while the Albanians are in force in the positions they are in possession of.

He believes that, when the present excitement has a little calmed down, many of the Albanians will be impatient to return to the occupations which call for their presence at this season of the year, and that the difficulty of getting supplies to a large force, entirely destitute of all commissariat arrangements, will inevitably before long lead to dispersion of the greater number, when the positions might be taken possession of by the Montenegrins with comparative ease.

It appears from the reports received by the Austrian Government that not less than 9,000 rations of bread are daily taken from Scutari to the Albanian camps, to which water has also to be carried, and, even if the Turks are unable to reoccupy their abandoned positions, it cannot be admitted that they are so powerless as not to be able to prevent the transport of food from Scutari or any other source of considerable supply.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 200.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 205. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 4, 1880.*

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship will have been informed from St. Petersburg that General Ramberg had been sent by the Emperor of Austria to congratulate the Czar on his birthday on the

29th April, and that a similar compliment was paid to His Majesty by the Emperor of Germany.

The Austrian papers have since been industrious in representing this act of courtesy as a forerunner of the revival of the "Drei Kaiser Bund," which, with scarcely an exception, they have anticipated with dismay; but they argue that if a coldness is to arise in the relations with England, it may be thought necessary to turn to another quarter.

I am satisfied that, as far as the Austrian Government is concerned, this is the last thing they would wish. They have, on the contrary, a keen desire to maintain the closest intimacy and the most confidential intercourse with Great Britain upon all questions of the day; they hope that the views of the two Governments upon the manner of treating them will not be found conflicting, and unless they are disappointed in this expectation, nothing of the nature of the late triple alliance is at all probable.

There is, however, a conviction in this country that Russia has ultimate views with regard to the East, antagonistic to the interests of the other Powers, but especially of Austria and England, which it is thought she will only be deterred from pursuing as long as we are known to be in harmony; but if this should fail, the Austrian Government would probably before long be brought to consider whether by means of a triple alliance their own interests might not be better protected, for there is nothing they dread so much as a position of isolation.

I would beg to repeat that there is certainly nothing of this kind now contemplated; and that the only wish is to maintain the arrangements come to at Berlin, in which the cordial co-operation of the English and French Governments is confidently anticipated.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 201.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 207. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 5, 1880.*

My Lord,

WHEN I called to-day at the Foreign Office, I was informed by Baron Haymerle's desire that the Russian Ambassador had just communicated to him a telegram by which he was instructed to invite the Austrian Government to join in a collective intimation to the Porte, that unless it carried out the arrangement about the Montenegrin frontier, the Powers would concert between themselves upon the measures that they must adopt to protect Montenegro from the Albanians, and to secure the execution of the Treaty.

Baron Haymerle had replied that the proposal appeared to him to be premature, no answer having been received from the Porte to the last communication made to it by the Ambassadors, which should be got before any further step was talked of.

He also objected to the proposal on other grounds, for he would not willingly pledge himself to concert measures for the protection of Montenegro and the execution of the frontier arrangements without having at least some notion of what it was intended that those measures should be.

He considered, moreover, that if the Powers announced that they would take measures to ensure the execution of the frontier arrangements, they would relieve the Porte of the responsibility which properly lies with it, and would assume it themselves.

Baron Haymerle authorized me to inform your Lordship of this communication, and of the manner in which he regarded it, but he requested me not to mention it to my colleagues.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 202.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 208. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 5, 1880.*

My Lord,

M. TEISSERENC DE BORT, the French Ambassador, yesterday delivered his letters of recall at a private audience granted him by the Emperor, who bestowed upon

him the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Stephen, and he leaves Vienna to-morrow to the general regret of his colleagues and of the Imperial Government.

In a conversation that I had with him this afternoon he told me that at his audience the Emperor had spoken at some length upon the present position of affairs, and had said among other things that the apprehensions, which he admitted himself to have felt upon the change of Government in England, were already to a great degree removed by the reports he had received of the disposition of Her Majesty's new Cabinet.

M. Teisserenc added that His Majesty's language had confirmed him in the conviction he had already come to that there was no ground for the suspicion sometimes entertained that the Austrian Government had ambitious or annexionist projects now in view, or that they desired anything but re-establishment of tranquillity in Turkey upon the basis fixed at Berlin.

His colleague, M. Fournier, the French Ambassador at Constantinople had, he was aware, reported that Austrian agents in Bulgaria were intriguing to prevent affairs in that Principality settling down in the hope that there might arise further trouble and confusion of which advantage might be taken; but he must himself have been very wanting in perspicacity if there was any ground for this suspicion, for during the time he has been at Vienna he had seen or heard nothing to warrant the supposition that a Government already sufficiently embarrassed by the sometimes conflicting views of their own different nationalities should be so blind to their own manifest interest as to wish to add to their difficulties by stirring up disturbances on their frontier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 203.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 211.) *Vienna, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

THE Austrian Government have received the same information as that contained in Mr. Green's telegram, forwarded to me by telegraph yesterday by your Lordship, respecting the arrival at Scutari of 3,000 Mirdites to aid in the resistance against the Montenegrins.

Baron Haymerle at once directed the Imperial Consul at Scutari to remind the Chief, Prenk Bib Doda, of the interest always taken in this Catholic tribe by the Austrian and French Governments, whose Representatives at the Berlin Congress had spoken in favour of the maintenance of the traditional privileges which they have hitherto enjoyed.

The Chief was to be warned in addition that, by taking a part in resistance to the European decisions, he would forfeit the good-will of the two Powers most disposed to be friendly to him.

The co-operation of this tribe with the other Albanians affords another proof, if any was necessary, that those populations are more influenced by the ties of race than by any question of Christianity or Mahommedanism, though this fact appears to have been lost sight of when it was determined to annex territories inhabited by a hostile people to the Montenegrin Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 204.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 213. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that M. Kosjek, the Secretary of the Austro-Hungarian Legation at Constantinople, is appointed to serve upon the Eastern Roumelian Commission in the place of Baron Kallai, who is now one of the Under-Secretaries of the Imperial Foreign Office.

I am informed confidentially that he has been told in his instructions that his Government consider that the Commission should conscientiously examine the laws to be submitted to them by the Porte, with a view of ascertaining whether their general principles are acceptable, and such as appear calculated to secure the populations from

aladministration and oppression; but they would deprecate any attempt to enter into scussion on minute or secondary details.

The Austrian Government consider that the duty of the Commission, as regards these laws, is a very different one from that imposed upon it in respect to Eastern Roumelia, for which it had itself to elaborate an Organic Statute.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 205.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 215. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH I have more than once reported to the Marquis of Salisbury the feelings with which the occupation of Bosnia and the Herzegovina was regarded in this country, it may be right for me shortly to repeat to your Lordship the substance of what I then wrote; for it is a good deal at variance with the impression that generally prevails in Europe.

Many persons have supposed the acquisition of those provinces to have been from the commencement of the insurrection the secret aim of the Austrian Government, but though there was undoubtedly much to favour such a suspicion the equivocal policy then followed was, I believe, the direct consequence of what has been at all times the curse of this country, *i.e.*, a powerful military party acting to a great degree independently of, and often thwarting, the responsible Government.

General Rodich, the Governor-General of Dalmatia, himself a Slav, and his Slav Lieutenants, had an unconcealed sympathy with the insurgents, and it was mainly through their connivance in allowing stores, supplies, and volunteers, to pass from the Austrian territory, that the movement was kept alive.

They were supported by the military party, headed by the Archduke Albert, who possessed influence over the Emperor, and Count Andrassy was not strong enough to resist them.

That this party aimed at the annexation of Bosnia I do not myself doubt, and they would eagerly have grasped at the offer of the Emperor Alexander when he sent General Summrakoff to propose that Austria should join him in the war upon Turkey, receiving Bosnia as her share of the plunder, with, I believe, an intimation that she might push as far as Salonica, while he was to be left carte blanche in Bulgaria and Roumelia.

That Count Andrassy succeeded in obtaining the rejection of this overture, affords sufficient evidence that the acquisition of Bosnia was not what he desired; for, secure as he then was of the support of Prince Bismarck, there would have been little difficulty in the realization of the project.

When the war with Russia ended by the prostration of Turkey, and it became evident that the authority of the Sultan could not be re-established in Bosnia, what was to become of the province became a question of momentous interest to the Austrian Government, and there were but three alternatives to be considered: it might be left to administer itself; it might be incorporated with Servia; or it might be annexed to Austria.

Neither of the first two alternatives could be seen with indifference by this country.

A majority of the population of Bosnia proper consisted of Mahometans and Roman Catholics who have no sympathy with the Orthodox minority, and the different classes being in a state of bitter hostility on a complicated agrarian question, and it was evident that the withdrawal of all controlling authority could lead to nothing but a desperate internecine war on the frontier of Austrian territories inhabited by a kindred race.

The incorporation of Bosnia with Servia would have been, if possible, still less acceptable for it was thought not only that Servia would be unable to maintain order among a hostile population, but that if she succeeded in ultimately establing it, the extension would be a step leading inevitably to the future acquisition of the narrows trip of Dalmatian territory according to the known views of the Obladina.

The Austrian acquisition of Bosnia thus came to be considered the only remaining alternative, and the choice being represented as one between the loss of Dalmatia or the acquisition of Bosnia, the Berlin arrangement was ratified by the Chambers which voted the necessary money after debates which showed how little it was liked.

It would, indeed, be difficult to imagine a measure more generally unpopular with all

parties than it has proved; for it is universally thought that a task has been undertaken which will be for years the cause of expenditure without any counteracting advantage, and there is not even now the gratification to the national vanity, which an absolute annexation might have afforded to some, so that a very great change must take place in public opinion before it would be possible for any Government of this country to pursue a policy of further extension.

The reports at one time industriously spread of Austrian designs in Salonica were probably invented with the view of keeping up the distrust of Turkey, but were certainly groundless, and there is no reason for supposing such projects were likely to be entertained unless there should be a more complete break-up of the Turkish Empire, the result of which must defy all present calculation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 206.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 216.)
Vienna, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 194 of the 4th instant was delivered to me this morning by the messenger Johnson, and I was able to communicate it to Baron Haymerle just as he was starting for Pesth, where the Emperor now is.

His Excellency, after reading it, said that although, without taking His Majesty's orders, he could, of course, not give a formal answer to your Lordship's proposal that the Powers should make a simultaneous and identical communication to the Porte, calling upon it to carry out all the unfulfilled provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, he would beg me at once to assure you that the observance of all these stipulations was what the Imperial Government had most at heart.

He was, therefore, fully disposed to join in every step tending to ensure that result.

His Excellency asked if I knew how it was intended that the identic communication to the Porte was to be drawn up, and upon my saying that I could give him no information on the subject, he observed that it would probably be desirable that a project or draft of the proposed note should be agreed upon by the Cabinets, instead of it being left to be settled by the Ambassadors.

With respect to the mention of Kuci-Kraina in your Lordship's despatch, Baron Haymerle observed that he believed that place never to have been evacuated by the Montenegrins, and to be still in their possession, and that it would be well to be careful in any communication to the Porte, that there should be no inaccuracy of which it would try to take advantage.

I said that by Kuci-Kraina your Lordship had evidently intended to speak of the district to be made over to Montenegro under the last agreement, but that in any communication to the Porte a more accurate description would, no doubt, be employed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 207.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 217. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

IN a telegram that I had the honour to receive last night respecting Russian non-commissioned officers and rifles which have gone to Bulgaria, your Lordship observed that you would make further inquiry respecting the vessel "Golubchik," which was stated to have been given to the Prince by the Emperor of Russia, but about which there appeared to be some doubt.

The information received by the Austrian Government respecting this vessel was derived from a confidential Aide-de-camp of the Prince of Bulgaria, who, in a conversation with Baron Haymerle, mentioned the fact of the Emperor having made His Highness a present of the arms and of the vessel as a proof that the Czar showed more good-will towards Bulgaria than was manifested by the other Powers, and as a justification for His Highness in allowing Russia to exercise so much influence in the Principality.

Baron Haymerle answered that it would have been more correct on the part of the Prince if he had expressed to the Emperor his gratitude for the proposed mark of his favour, but to have intimated that respect for the Treaty would not permit him to accept the present.

I am not able to give your Lordship any information of the character of the "Golubchik," which may perhaps not be a monitor or armed vessel.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 208.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 16.)
Pera, May 3, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform you that I have just had an interview with Colonel Philippoff, who is acting for General Stebnitzky, the Russian Commissioner for the first section of the Russo-Turkish frontier in Asia.

He informs me that General Stebnitzky has notified from Tiflis his immediate departure for Constantinople, and that he expects him here about next Sunday the 9th instant, when his business will be to endeavour to settle the disputed part of that section, between Artvin and Nariman, with the Turks.

Colonel Philippoff has already endeavoured to make the Turks consent to the line desired by Russia there, but without success.

He also considers it certain that Russia will not consent to begin with the second section till the first shall be agreed to.

This is so manifestedly unnecessary that I am obliged to conclude that Russia insists upon it in order to make the natural desire of the British Government and of myself for the speedy dispatch of this business, a means of putting on the Turks additional pressure to force them to yield to the Russian proposition respecting the above-named part of the frontier.

He also stated it to be his own opinion, not speaking for his Government, that, if the Turks will not agree to the Russian claim, Russian troops should at once occupy the line of frontier which Russia may consider suitable.

This is exactly in accordance with language uttered, and afterwards disavowed by the Russian Government, by Prince Labanoff last year. (*Vide* Sir A. H. Layard's despatch No. 650 of the 22nd July, 1879.)

It is so unusual for Russian officials in Colonel Philippoff's position to express decided views without authority, that it seems likely that he has been instructed to make the utterance of this opinion an indirect means of coercion.

He seems entirely ignorant that M. Giers (see Lord Dufferin's despatch No. 368 of the 3rd August, 1879) has admitted the right of Great Britain to a voice in the settlement of the point west of Karaourgan, for he expressed his opinion that it would be for General Stebnitzky to fix that with his Turkish colleague, which he considered a sufficient reason why the work of the second section should be postponed till the preliminary settlement of the first shall be finished.

On the other hand, I have been assured by Sawas Pasha that the Turkish Government will not consent to the fixing of the point west of Karaourgan without the concurrence of the British Commissioner, and by Chehab Bey (Commissioner of the first section) that the Russian demand for the line between Artvin and Narinman will not be acceded to.

Under these circumstances, it being already certain that, owing to the delay made by Russia in sending its Commissioner of the second section to meet his colleagues, a part of the working season must be already considered as lost, it becomes necessary to anticipate the case of the dead-lock continuing, first, so long as to oblige the Commission to do its work in the hottest season; secondly, so long as to render it doubtful whether it can finish this year. In either case the detention of myself and my party for months in this city is a serious expense, and it may be advisable to consider whether Russia should not be informed that her persistence in delaying the work may cause my recall, thereby deferring to another year the settlement which she professes herself so desirous of dispatching.

To judge from her attitude, and also from the language of Colonel Philippoff, she

seems to consider that it rests with her alone to determine in what way the business shall proceed.

If your Lordship is desirous of ascertaining the state of the question as to the frontier between Artvin and Nariman, where Great Britain cannot intervene otherwise than as a Signatory to the Treaty of Berlin, I would suggest that Major Clarke should be requested to explain it to you.

It was under these circumstances that I telegraphed to you to-day suggesting that the Russian Government should be requested to empower General Stebnitzky to endeavour to settle with me and our Turkish colleague the starting point of the second section west of Karaourgan.

If M. Giers adheres to the verbal admission already quoted, made to Lord Dufferin, and to the point indicated on the map sent to the Russian Commissioner for his guidance, there can be only two points in question for choice of the starting point, namely, (1) that of the intersection of the watershed with the parallel (point X) which England and Turkey would at once consent to; and (2) the point claimed by Russia in the fork of the streams in the same parallel and a little to the westward of X. The difference between them is so insignificant in extent that there could not be the slightest difficulty in proceeding on the ground with alternative frontiers from each point in case of non-agreement, while it is quite possible that, after viewing the locality, I might find the difference of so little importance for the security of Zevin, as to be able to consent to the Russian point. It is for these reasons that I have been so urgent that the Commission should at once meet on the frontier.

I am yet ignorant as to whether the Russian Government still intend to appoint one Commissioner for both sections of the frontier, or whether there will be a second, and who he is to be, which, and other uncertainties, have greatly increased my difficulties in offering suggestions for the forwarding of the business.

Nothing can be simpler than the settlement of this frontier if Russia comes to it with good-will, which is difficult to attribute to her, in view of her constant endeavours to add to the large territory she gains from Turkey, by petty and unfair contentions. I say this from no prejudice in the matter, for I am only desirous of seeing the business speedily settled in the terms of the Treaty under which I am appointed. It is probable that Russia really wishes to finish the delimitation, but with the proviso that it shall accord with her own views, and I cannot but repeat that the long delay in enabling the Tripartite Commission to proceed to the frontier seems intentional on her part, the interests of others being set aside without scruple, or rather being turned to account, in order to gain her point elsewhere. But on these and other matters connected with this Commission I should be glad to learn your Lordship's views and to act in accordance with them.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 209.

Major-General Sir E. Hamley to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 17.) *Constantinople, May 3, 1880.*

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to observe that, although on the 13th March I wrote a despatch containing proposals for settling the Khotour territory, which, I understand, were likely to be accepted by the Russian Government, late telegrams from St. Petersburgh show that General Zelenoy is still left in the belief that it will be necessary for him and me to proceed to Khotour, which he makes the ground for desiring a meeting between us at Tiflis. Under these circumstances, I beg to recapitulate my views of that business.

In the before-mentioned despatch I observed that it would be worse than useless to attempt a delimitation on the ground, as the labours of the Anglo-Russian Commission would thereby be invalidated, and that nothing appeared to be necessary except the completion of those labours, as regards the territory of Khotour only, which may easily be effected on the one side by me, the terms of my Commission giving me the requisite authority, and, on the other, by a Russian Delegate similarly empowered. This completion would consist, I consider, in our laying down on a map of the Khotour territory, to be duly signed by us, a line which shall be coincident with the Khotour portion of the "silver ink" line defining the whole proposed Turco-Persian frontier, drawn by Sir Arnold Kemball, in 1875, on a map now in my possession. This "silver ink" line is identical, so far as the territory of Khotour is concerned, with a line traced by his colleague, General Zelenoy, on another copy of the same map, which is also in my possession. This was what was evidently contemplated in framing Article LX of the Treaty of Berlin, whether with (or without) knowledge that the work of the Commission of 1875 was incomplete I cannot say, nor is it very material.

In addition to the laying down of this line on a map traced from one of the aforesaid maps, my colleague in the business and myself would probably draw up and sign a Report containing a verbal description of it.

In doing this we should not be acting as Commissioners of the Asiatic frontier, but as officers appointed to complete the work of the Anglo-Russian Commission of 1875.

Neither the Turkish nor Persian officials would have any footing in this business, either under the Treaty of Berlin, or under the Commission for delimitating the frontiers in Asia. The share of the Turkish Government in the matter will be to act on the award of those who thus adopt and complete the work of the Commissioners of 1875,* by withdrawing their troops (if any remain there) from Khotour territory, and leaving it entirely to Persia. The share of Persia will be a passive one—that of accepting the said territory.

In point of fact, the territory of Khotour was ceded formally to Persia on the 25th January, 1879, and the town of Khotour was thereupon occupied by Persian troops. Whether the territory here mentioned corresponds with that defined by the "silver ink" line, I cannot say; but the configuration of the ground renders it very unlikely that, after the relinquishment of the town of Khotour, Turkey would retain any troops on that side of the mountain frontier.

The settlement of this business would therefore be very simple if the Russian Government accept my view of it. In fact, it would have been settled before now had a Russian Delegate been appointed to meet me as I requested.

The reason which rendered it expedient that this Delegate should be General Zelenoy is, that he was the colleague of Sir Arnold Kemball, and would consequently merely have to complete his own work. But this is not essential; and if it would save time, an officer on the spot, General Stebnitzky or Colonel Philippoff might be empowered to complete General Zelenoy's former work, as I to complete Sir A. Kemball's.

In my case, if much more delay is made by Russia, it will manifestly be better to use the out-door season for the Armenian frontier, leaving the Khotour matter to be settled whenever the Russian Government can make up its mind to appoint a Delegate to meet me.

It might be well, again, to communicate the foregoing particulars, with any others in my previous despatches which might further elucidate the matter, to the Russian Government.

It is to be observed that the Khotour territory is expressly to be given in exchange for the Alashgerd Valley. Therefore, even if the Khotour delimitation should be settled first, the transaction ought not to be completed by Turkey till the other frontier is finally settled.

I would once more beg to urge most strongly that a meeting at Tiflis should on no account be acceded to. With the evident disposition of Russia to enforce her demands, the Commission would be helplessly and uselessly kept there so long as she might choose to make compliance with those demands a condition of proceeding to the frontier.

With many serious reasons against, I have heard no plausible one for, the meeting at Tiflis.

I have, &c.

(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 210.

Major-General Sir E. B. Hamley to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 11.)

Dear Lord Tenterden, *Constantinople, May 4, 1880.*

IN the memorandum I sent you on the 23rd April, I said, in paragraph 17, "The instructions and map do not appear ever to have been sent to Colonel Zelenoi."

Such was the inference to be drawn from the printed correspondence; but I have since seen a map, now in possession of Colonel Philippoff, who is in temporary charge of the business of the Commission of the 1st section, containing the line of frontier in question, and the following note, written in Russian, on the face of the map:—"Modification of frontier according to the Berlin Treaty, on the basis of the Agreement of Count

* See Carathéodory Pasha's engagement to do so at Congress of Berlin, Protocols Nos. 16 and 17.

Schouvaloff with Lord Salisbury, shown on the map attached to the despatch of Count Schouvaloff, London, $\frac{13}{25}$th January, 1879."

Will you be so kind as to cause the paragraph to be corrected accordingly.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) E. B. HAMLEY.

No. 211.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 368.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 10, 1880.*

M. DE FREYCINET told me this morning that he yesterday received from M. de St. Vallier, the French Ambassador at Berlin, a résumé of a Circular from your Lordship which, as he learnt, had been communicated to the German Government on the 7th instant, and which proposed the presentation of an identic note to the Porte, demanding the complete execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

M. de Freycinet further informed me that he had furnished M. Léon Say, the French Ambassador in London, with a copy of this résumé, as the latter had no knowledge of any such document.

I told M. de Freycinet that Lord Lyons was returning at once to Paris, and that I believed that he would bring with him a communication in the above sense, which Her Majesty's Government desired that his Excellency should himself make to the French Government, and that his Excellency would be able, being fully informed of the views of Her Majesty's Government, to give to the French Government such explanations as might be deemed necessary.

M. de Freycinet was desirous of learning when Her Majesty's Ambassador would reach Paris.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 212.

Mr. Adams to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 370.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 10, 1880.*

I MENTIONED to M. de Freycinet this morning the proposal made to your Lordship by the Russian Ambassador (as contained in your Lordship's telegram No. 86 of the 8th instant), that a collective declaration should be made at Constantinople on the part of the Great Powers saying that, in view of the circumstances, those Powers were determined to come to an understanding as to the taking of effective measures for the protection of Montenegro, for the prevention of a conflagration, and for the execution of those engagements which they had sanctioned.

M. de Freycinet said that to a similar representation from Russia, he had answered that the French Government considered that it would be premature for the Powers to make another declaration to the Porte before the answer to their last note had been given. His Excellency added that the French Government were of opinion that, before any such collective declaration was made, the Powers should be agreed upon what the effective measures were to be.

I told M. de Freycinet that Her Majesty's Government were also of opinion that this proposal on the part of Russia was premature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. O. ADAMS.

No. 213.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 43.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 10, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED yesterday to Minister for Foreign Affairs a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 195 of the 4th instant, and I have just received a note from Count

Maffei stating that the Italian Government will be very happy to join Her Majesty's Government in the steps proposed to the Powers to obtain from the Porte the execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin referred to.

He observes, however, with reference to Montenegro, that it would be advisable to wait until Porte gives an answer to the collective note presented by the Ambassadors on the 3rd instant before doing anything further in this question.

No. 214.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 225.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1880.*

FOLLOWING received from Consul Zohrab, dated to-day :—

"Persian Consul's cavasses seized and maltreated my cavass on the 3rd May, while proceeding in uniform to Governor with fugitive slave. Slave taken, put in irons in Persian Consulate, and restitution to me or authorities refused.

"British subjects not safe. Persian Consul threatens to arrest them.

"Her Majesty's Government should make representation at Tehran. I cannot obtain any redress from Persian Embassy here."

No. 215.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11.)

(No. 226.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 10, 1880.*

WILL you kindly answer my telegram No. 200, as the Porte insists upon receiving Firman and harbour dues collected at the Consulate in medjidiés at 19 piastres?

No. 216.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Commercial.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1880.*

ANSWER to your 200.

At present, at all events, Her Majesty's Government only raise objection to the alteration in value of the medjidié on the point of customs duties.

No. 217.

Sir H. Elliott to Earl Granville.—(Received May 11, 4 P.M.)

(No. 54. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 11, 1880.*

WITH reference to M. Giers' hint to Lord Dufferin that the best solution of the Montenegrin frontier difficulty would be that Austria should give up a corner of the Herzegovina to the Principality, the same idea had occurred to me, and a few days ago I endeavoured very cautiously to ascertain whether there would be any probability of leading the Austrian Government to suggest such an arrangement, but Baron Haymerle's language led me to the conclusion that it would not be entertained.

No. 218.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 138.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 11, 1880, 4·15 P.M.*

MUSURUS PASHA has informed me that the Porte consents to Mr. Goschen's appointment, but hopes that a formal application will be made.

I told him that instructions to that effect had been already sent.

No. 219.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 481.)
Foreign Office, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your Excellency's despatch No. 336 of the 28th ultimo, reporting that M. de Freycinet had expressed the opinion that if the Porte made difficulties with regard to the Greek Frontier Commission sitting in Turkey, it might very well meet, at all events at the beginning, elsewhere.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that there would be much advantage in this proposal being placed before the Porte as an alternative, and they have accordingly instructed Her Majesty's Representatives to suggest that this should be done, and that it should be included in the identic and simultaneous note which Her Majesty's Government have invited the Powers, in my despatch No. 452 of the 4th instant, to instruct their Ambassadors to address to the Porte on the subject of the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that Berlin or Paris would be a very suitable place of meeting, and that there might be, in the first instance, a Conference of the Representatives of the mediating Powers, assisted by officers possessing technical knowledge; and that the Porte and the Government of Greece might be asked to lay before them their respective projects of frontier. It would be desirable to fix some time at which this Conference should be convened, in case the Porte still continues to delay giving a definitive reply; and Her Majesty's Government would suggest that the date of meeting for actual business should be before the end of June.

The decision of the Conference should doubtless be by the majority, as had been agreed upon for the local Frontier Commission, and when a determination has been arrived at, a Commission might proceed to the spot to settle any details.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 220.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 207.)
Foreign Office, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. of the instant, instructing your Excellency to invite the Government to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government and the other Treaty Powers in urging upon the Porte the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin, I transmit to your Excellency herewith copies of correspondence with Lord Lyons, from which you will see that Her Majesty's Government consider that an alternative proposal with regard to the Greek frontier might be placed before the Porte in the identic and simultaneous note which Her Majesty's Government have suggested should be addressed to it, and that if, for the reasons already set forth by the Turkish Government, they are unwilling that a Boundary Commission should meet in Turkish territory, or are unable to guarantee its safety, a Conference should be assembled at Berlin or Paris to consider and decide by a majority upon the proper line of rectification of frontier to be adopted, and that this Conference should at all events be convened and in actual session before the end of June, if by that time a satisfactory reply had not been received from the Porte.

I have to request that your Excellency will accordingly inquire of the Government whether they agree to this alternative proposal being comprised in the joint representation to the Porte which Her Majesty's Government have proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 221.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 221 A. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, May 11, 1880.

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI referred to-day to the third alternative mentioned by me in the conversation with him recorded in my preceding despatch as a possible solution of the

* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

Montenegrin difficulty; the discovery of a compromise which would give to Montenegro an accession of territory in a quarter where the inhabitants would be willing to live under her rule.

His Excellency said that on examining the map he could see no way in which this idea could be carried out without a curtailment of the rights with which Austria-Hungary was entrusted. The whole of the southern frontier of the Principality was inhabited by Albanians, and consequently compensation would only be given out of the Lim territory, or out of Herzegovina. To touch either of these districts would be incompatible with Austro-Hungarian rights. His Excellency added that, as Austria-Hungary had the nearest interest in the Montenegrin question, and, as the only neighbouring State, was deeply affected by all changes occurring in that quarter, he was specially instructed to state that his Government would feel greatly obliged if I would confidentially explain to them my idea of compensation before communicating respecting it to other Powers.

I replied that I had made no definite propositions to any of the Powers, but that I had had some private and general communications with the German and French Ambassadors as to the alternatives which were possible for the settlement of the Montenegrin question. I promised that I would not push those communications further till I should be more clearly in possession of the views of Baron Haymerle. I expressed my pleasure at the assurances which his Excellency had given me in our conversations that the Austro-Hungarian Government would be inclined to concert with their allies compromises either with the Albanians or the Montenegrins. I was, I said, aware from the reports which I had received, that a line had been suggested by the Turks to the Montenegrins about the beginning of December, which would probably have been accepted by the latter, but that the settlement failed owing to the opposition of his Government, and I was now encouraged by his language to hope that the objection might be withdrawn. I did not like to make a suggestion which might appear to clash with the Treaty rights of Austria-Hungary. As, however, he invited me to explain my idea, I would send him a memorandum showing the line which it was expected would be acceptable both to Turkey and Montenegro, but which would undoubtedly necessitate, if it were adopted, the surrender by Austria-Hungary of a narrow strip of territory, now occupied by her, lying between the River Lim and the Treaty frontier; and I would ask him to request his Government to consider whether this strip of country was really of importance to Austria-Hungary in comparison with the difficulties which the Montenegrin question would create, if it were not promptly solved, and by which she, of all the European Powers, would be, from her geographical position, most immediately affected.

In compliance with my undertaking, I have sent to his Excellency the paper forming the first inclosure in Captain Sale's letter of the 18th of February last, of which a copy is in your possession.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 222.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 12.)

(No. 52. Political.)
Prisrend, April 23, 1880.

My Lord,

LAST January the house of the Orthodox Greek Priest of Dobrotin, named Filip, was broken into by Mussulmans, who, after having shot his companion for showing signs of resistance, ransacked the premises, and then proceeded to pull out his beard and place burning coals on his chest until he had given up all the money in his possession.

The village of Dobrotin is within a short distance of Gilan and the line of railway running between Salonica and Mitrovitza.

The story is well authenticated, and may be taken as a fair sample of the treatment which the Christians throughout this country are now receiving at the hands of the Turks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 223.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 53. Political.)
Prisrend, April 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith translation of a memorandum sent to me by Mgr. Fulgenzio Czarev, Archbishop of Scopia, on receiving the news of another horrible assassination at Jakova, whereby he invokes the good offices of Her Majesty's Government for the protection of the Christians in his Diocese.

Your Lordship will perceive that this foul murder was committed by members of the family of Cursan, mentioned in my despatch No. 46 of the 17th instant, whom the mountaineers and Catholic clergy were always desirous to have exiled, but whom the Government and Moukhtar Pasha have hitherto protected.

The Archbishop has likewise sent memoranda to the Austrian and Russian Consuls, and a protest to Ahmed Helmi Pasha, the Mutessarif of Prisrend.

The details of the assassination, however, have not been fully related by the Archbishop, for it has been reported to us that the women were terribly ill-treated, and the children dashed against the walls.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 223.

The Archbishop of Scopia to Consul St. John.

(Translation.)
Prisrend, April 24, 1880.

IN the list of persecutions and crimes committed on the Catholics by Mussulmans in the district of Jakova we have now another case to record.

On the night of the 22nd instant, in fact the day before yesterday, at about 11 o'clock, Litia and Risaja, of the Cursan family, well-known Chiefs, together with the murderer of Zefi Mitrovich, and ten other assassins, forced an entrance into the house of Lorenzo Bisci, a Catholic, opened the door of his room, robbed him of all his goods, besides 50,000 piastres in money, and then assassinated him.

A daughter and a sister were present, and identified all the assassins. Until 8 o'clock the following morning no Government official appeared.

The Catholics acquainting the Undersigned of what has occurred, declare that their safety is compromised day and night, and implore his advice as to what they should do and where they should go.

The Undersigned is convinced that all former crimes, as well as the one above alluded to, will remain unpunished; as, though the Local Government, by its communication of last December, gave the Austrian Consulate assurances to the contrary, the assassin of the unfortunate Mitrovich is still unpunished and is allowed to walk freely about not only Jakova but also Prisrend.

The Undersigned, with the conviction that no satisfaction can be obtained from the Local Government to any representations he might make, and taking into consideration the many crimes unpunished, the many families dispersed and reduced to misery, as Pastor of this Diocese, in which so many Christians are suffering persecution, he, in the name of God, of humanity, and of justice, through you, Consul of Great Britain, protests at all the assassinations that have hitherto taken place, as well as crimes committed and about to be committed; and sees no other alternative than to invoke the protection of the Government of Her Majesty the Queen of Great Britain, whose Representative you are at this place. As your mission is to protect the Christian cause, we implore your assistance.

From the present state of affairs, as well as from expressed threats, it is clear that any loss of time would prove disastrous to the Catholic population, not only of Jakova, but of the whole Diocese.

The Undersigned, with the conviction that you will do all in your power to assist the Catholics, heartily thanks you for the interest you have hitherto taken in them, and for any exertions you may make on their behalf.

(Signed) FULGENZIO CZAREV,
Archbishop of Scopia.

No. 224.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 54. Political.)
Prisrend, April 24, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster mentioned in my despatch No. 48 of the 19th instant, I have to report that he has been arrested and tried.

It was proved that he had written a letter to a relation near Gilan, wherein inquiries were made as to how many Christians in that district had been assassinated during the last three years.

Being a Christian, he had to undergo some punishment; but as no other charge could be proved against him, he was sentenced to be exiled; and he starts to-morrow, leaving his wife and child behind to starve.

The letter, it is well to know, was illegally intercepted by Ramadan, the assassin of Mehemet Ali's telegraphist, and the trial conducted by Hadji Omer Effendi, the instigator of Mehemet Ali's assassination.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 225.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 55. Political.)
Prisrend, April 26, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to the illegal arrest and exile of the Orthodox Greek schoolmaster of this place, which formed the subject of my despatch No. 54 of the 24th instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a note I have addressed to his Excellency Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, the Vali of the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

Inclosure in No. 225.

Consul St. John to Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha.

Excellence,
Prisrend, le 26 *Avril*, 1880.

IL y a eu depuis votre départ une affaire assez attristante ici : le jeune maître d'école Grec-Orthodoxe a été arrêté illégalement par Ramadan Yaskok, l'assassin du Secrétaire de Mehemet Ali, pour avoir écrit à Gilan une lettre que la malveillance de certains esprits veut considérer comme séditieuse ; mais laquelle en réalité n'offre pas le moindre trait compromettant pour l'auteur, et n'aurait été dans aucun autre pays civilisé l'objet d'une enquête.

Le Conseil qui s'est érigé pour juger le jeune homme n'a pu en effet lui trouver aucune preuve de culpabilité, et il aurait été mise en liberté si l'influence de Hadji Omer Effendi, le Président du Conseil, dont vous connaissez mieux que moi le caractère et le passé, n'avait prédominé.

Comme il a été exilé à Monastir, je prie votre Excellence de le prendre sous votre protection toute particulière, et de bien vouloir m'écrire un mot à ce sujet, afin que je puisse rassurer sa famille.

Je m'intéresse en ce moment au sort des malheureux réfugiés Musulmans dont j'en nourris 200 par semaine, et j'aime à croire que vous ne me refuserez pas en retour le service que je vous demande.

J'ai la conviction que si votre Excellence avait encore été ici une pareille injustice n'aurait jamais pu s'accomplir.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 226.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 79. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 26, 1880.

THE Italian Consul having been instructed to verify the report which had reached the Italian Government through, I believe, its Chargé d'Affaires at Cettinjé, that General Hadji Osman Pasha, when he evacuated on the 22nd instant the positions ceded to Montenegro, had left some pieces of artillery in the hands of the North Albanian mountaineers, dispatched the Cancellier of his Consulate to Castrati, on the new frontier-line, where the Turkish troops are at present collected, to ascertain by personal inspection the number of guns in the Ottoman camp.

M. Tonietti has now informed the Consul that he was shown at Castrati a battery of six mountain pieces as being all the artillery that had existed in the ceded positions. M. Tonietti cannot say whether any of these guns had not been sent from Scutari within the last few days, although it is known that artillery was quite recently dispatched from this to Hadji Osman Pasha. I, therefore, am not disposed to attach much value to an examination resulting only in the fact that six guns were seen at Castrati. Probably, however, the Albanians have not cared to possess artillery, with the management of which they are unacquainted.

I believe that 4,000 cases of cartridges, and 500 breech-loading rifles, fell into the hands of the mountaineers when Hadji Osman Pasha was withdrawing his troops.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 227.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 81. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that some Roman Catholic gentlemen of Scutari, who are taking a leading part in the management of the resistance to the cession of any Albanian territory to Montenegro, this afternoon informed me that preparations were being rapidly completed for an attack to be delivered against Podgoritza.

I immediately expressed the opinion to these persons that they had evidently been overcome by the existing general enthusiasm, and I conjured them to pause and take a calm view of the situation of affairs.

Had they yet asked themselves what their aims were, and where their present conduct was leading them to? I had warned them already that Montenegro would refuse to be dragged into a war with the irresponsible inhabitants of North Albania, and that Prince Nicholas would very properly insist on obtaining his rights through the Turkish Government. The resistance now made could only end in coercion by the Turkish Government, and if they hoped to mitigate its consequences they had better not weaken themselves by an uncalled-for struggle with Montenegro.

To my idea it was absurd of the Albanians imagining that they could overcome the Montenegrins when the latter were on their own mountains, and an onslaught in the neighbourhood of Podgoritza would probably result in a great loss of life and in disheartening the Albanian mountaineers.

My acquaintances admitted that, although they had been encouraged in their attitude by the Ottoman authorities, they had a hope that it would really result in ridding them of the Turks, and that they and the Christian mountaineers wished, by some act of successful heroism, to prove to the European Powers that they ought not to be overlooked and forced to pay, so to speak, the fines incurred by the Turkish Government through its political shortcomings.

I said that it was useless for the North Albanians to believe that the slighest countenance could be given by the Signatories to the Treaty of Berlin to the attempt which was now being made to prevent the delimitation of the frontiers which had been awarded to Montenegro, as the success of the attempt would be only an encouragement to the Turkish Government to essay to undermine the arrangements which had been made in other parts

of the Empire through the instrumentality of Mussulman and other discontentd inhabitants.

A lenient view of the opposition to the Sultan's commands could only be expected if the stand near Podgoritza was deprived, as much as possible, of all the regrettable accessories of warfare, and then, perhaps, an examination into the wishes of the North Albanians might ultimately be secured on the strength of the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin.

My acquaintances promised to use their best endeavours to secure in the Council of the League the adoption of pacific conduct; but they could not hold out much hope to me of success as, they said, the Mahommedan members appeared anxious to push on the mountaineers to commit compromising acts of aggression, and the latter were so convinced of their superiority to the Montenegrins that probably nothing but an actual trial of strength would be sufficient to influence them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 228.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 83. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 28, 1880.

THE whole of the Turkish troops which had garrisoned the different positions which have been ceded to Montenegro through the recent arrangement signed at Constantinople arrived here in the course of yesterday.

They had been withdrawn by General Hadji Osman Pasha, when he evacuated the positions on the 22nd instant, to the southern shores of Lake Castrati, where it had been intended to establish them permanently, but the Roman Catholic mountaineers of the district, on the evening of the 26th instant, sent to the Turkish Commander, and informed him that he must, in three hours, decide either to make common cause with the mountaineers to resist the Montenegrins, or to withdraw to Scutari.

The delay was extended to six hours to enable the Commander to communicate with Scutari, but, whether the answer was in the negative or not, the attitude of the Albanians became so threatening, that the troops had to be drawn off under cover of the night, leaving the camp, with all its appurtenances, to fall, next morning, into the hands of the peasants.

At the risk of always appearing inclined to point out the connivance of the Ottoman authorities with all opposition against the decrees of the Congress of Berlin, I find it my duty to draw attention to the fact that the sudden hostile action of the Castrati clan was almost contemporaneous with the suggestion of the Ambassadors to the Porte to reoccupy the positions of which Montenegro had been unable to take possession, and that as many as 500 soldiers of the garrison of Scutari deserted at the same time, thus furnishing a fair plea to the Turkish military authorities of inability to coerce the Albanians into submission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 229.

Mr. Kirby Green to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 85. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, April* 30, 1880.

THIS morning a deputation representing the masters of eight vessels belonging to the port of Dulcigno called on me to request me to assist them out of the position in which they have been placed through the arbitrary action of the hidden authority of the North Albanian League.

The eight vessels have brought from Antivari, on account of the Montenegrin Government, up the River Boyana, to the landing of Obotti, salt which was to be transported to Rieka and to other Montenegrin localities on Lake Scutari by smaller craft. The prohibition placed by the League on the use of the River Boyana by the Montenegrins now obliges the Dulcigno vessels to remain loaded, and the masters feel that they

cannot hope to hold the Government of the Principality responsible for delay arising from causes quite beyond its control.

I have lost no time in bringing the matter under the notice of Izzet Pasha, and pointing out to him the serious responsibility he is incurring by permitting so flagrant a usurpation of his authority. His Excellency affected to deny all knowledge of the interruption of the navigation of the Boyana by Montenegro, and assured me that he would take immediate steps to remove the asserted impediment.

Izzet Pasha also told me that he had found out, much to his regret, that two Montenegrins had yesterday, on arriving from the lake, been frightened away by some mountaineers, but that he had taken steps to prevent this occurring again.

I am sorry to say that, from private information, I am unable to bear out the Pasha's assurance, and I have no doubt the two Montenegrins in question fled back because they were warned by an officer of the police that the Governor-General could not answer for their lives if they persisted in remaining here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 230.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 87. Political.)
Scutari, May 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that the Commission of North Albanians commanding the Roman Catholic mountaineers and Mussulman contingents before Podgoritza has sent some of its most trusted captains here to make known to the inhabitants of Scutari, who have already paid two instalments to the fund for supporting the resistance against a cession of Albanian territory to Montenegro, that there must be no abatement in their patriotic ardour and zeal.

New subscriptions are to be levied, and those who attempt to be defaulters are to be hung, and will have their houses destroyed.

I have reason to believe that the Governor-General is aware of the measure adopted by the Albanian Commission, but he will continue, no doubt, as hitherto, by the most complete inaction, to appear to countenance the whole proceeding.

Within the last ten days the Turkish authorities here have received from the Porte remittances amounting to about 8,000*l.*, and it is the general belief that this most unusual supply of money has not been sent to discharge public debts, but to find its way in aiding the Albanian movement against Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 231.

Sir L. Simmons to Lord Tenterden.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Confidential.)
May 10, 1878.

My Lord,

WITH reference to your Lordship's Confidential letter of the 7th instant, I have to forward, for the information of Earl Granville, a Report I addressed to Lord Odo Russell on the 11th July, 1878, relative to the proceedings of the Special Boundary Commission at Berlin on the subject of the Turco-Russian boundary in Asia.

From this Report it will be seen that Count Schouvaloff accepted the boundary as traced by him on a map he gave to Lord Salisbury in London; and that the instructions given to the Commission on which I served were to define in words that boundary, as marked on the tracing.

Persistent efforts were afterwards made in my Commission to mix up military questions with the description of the boundary in a manner which would not, I conceived, have accorded with that marked on the traced map; and finally my Commission broke up without coming to any agreement.

The Commission of Delimitation of which Prince Hohenlöhe was President presented, however, a Report to Congress at their sitting of the 11th July (Parliamentary Paper,

C. 2083, p. 252), from which your Lordship will see that Congress accepted the Agreement arrived at by Lord Salisbury and the Ambassador of Russia in London: in other words, the line shown on the traced map above referred to.

The description of this line in words was finally settled between Lord Salisbury, Count Schouvaloff, and Mehemet Ali Pasha on the 12th July, under the circumstances detailed in my letter to the Foreign Office of the 19th July.

The intention was to fix the boundary in strict accordance with the agreed line as described on the tracing, and thus to get rid of all discussion, and to limit the work to be done on the ground to the discovery of the line which agrees with Count Schouvaloff's tracing.

That tracing was evidently made from the Russian maps, on the scale of 20 versts to an inch; the Medjingert of the tracing corresponding exactly with the southernmost of the two shown on that map, and described as "former fort of Medjingert." There can be no doubt that this should be accepted as the point upon which the line from Karaourgan should be directed, and that of departure of the "straight line towards the summit of the mountain Kassadagh."

As regards this latter line, in the absence of any good map, the Russians having refused to produce any other than the one from which Count Schouvaloff's tracing was made, it was specially described in the Treaty, as stated in my letter of the 10th September, as a straight line, to prevent all possible divergence or disagreement as to its course.

After all the difficulties that occurred at Berlin on this subject, I should advise strict adherence to this boundary as settled by the Treaty.

The Commission might, however, be empowered to suggest any deviations therefrom which, after examination on the ground, may be found to be manifestly in the interests of the inhabitants on both sides, provided the principle of compensation were maintained, and no undue advantage secured to either party.

If there should be any disagreement as to such proposed deviations, the original straight line should be reverted to as the Treaty boundary.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

Inclosure in No. 231.

Sir L. Simmons to Lord Odo Russell.

July 11, 1878.

My Lord,

I HAVE to inform your Lordship that I attended the meeting of the Special Boundary Commission at 9 P.M. yesterday, when Colonel Blunn, the President, informed me that he had no instructions, but that he expected Prince Hohenlöhe would attend to give them. The Prince soon after came in, as also Baron Haymerle, when he informed us that your Commission had settled the boundary-line from the Black Sea to Zevin, and that we were to verify the description which had been drawn up by your Commission, so that their intentions might be carried out on the ground. After some little conversation as to the inaccuracy of the maps, the Prince, in accord with Baron Haymerle, thought it better to leave the description as settled by your Commission, and that we specialists should not interfere with it.

His Serene Highness the Prince then asked me if I had the map with me that had been given by Count Schouvaloff to Lord Salisbury in London, as the Commission had decided that the line traced thereon was to be followed, so as to include the Valley of Bayazid and Alashgerd, and the commercial road through it, within the dominions of the Sultan.

Colonel Blunn proposed that Captain Ardagh, in conjunction with a Russian officer, Colonel Bogolubow, should draw up a description of the line, and Captain Ardagh had commenced when the Russian officer disappeared, saying he wanted to get another map.

After a lapse of more than half-an-hour he returned with a map with an entirely new line that I had never before seen; when I said that I understood we had nothing to do with the selection of a new line, but merely to define the one which had been agreed to by your Commission, viz., that on Count Schouvaloff's map. He went out of the room again, and soon after Count Schouvaloff entered with your Lordship, when Count Schouvaloff made a statement that he had traced his line in London under a misapprehension as to a description he had received by telegraph from St. Petersburgh; that he ought to have traced it to the southward; but that of course he was bound by what he had said, and he accepted the boundary as traced by him; but he wished, instead of following a direct line like a railroad, that it should be traced "géographiquement."

After you had retired, Colonel Bogolubow, the Russian Delegate, proposed that, instead of commencing at the point near Karaourgan on the San Stefano line, as shown on the Russian map, we should start from a point on the road to the southward, and, making a sweep round, pass on to Mijinguerd. I objected, as there was no necessity* on geographic grounds to the line as drawn by Count Schouvaloff.

He insisted strongly upon this change near Zevin, when I asked if it was not intended thereby to include the military position of Zevin in Russia, whereupon he acknowledged it; and a Russian officer, who had been Consul-General at Erzeroum, who was present, said that Count Schouvaloff had declared he accepted his own line subject to its being corrected "géographiquement et défensivement." I, however, insisted that Count Schouvaloff had not made use of the expression "défensivement," which was acknowledged generally by all present.

I regret to say that the German Delegate immediately took up the question of defence, when I stated that I had come to the meeting without any intention of discussing any modification in a military sense, but only to define a line as decided by your Commission, which was what your Lordship informed me was the purport of our meeting; that I only knew of the position by name as one in which the Turks during the war had repulsed an attack; that I had heard it spoken of as a very strong defensive position; and that, as it was given to Turkey by Count Schouvaloff's line, it ought to remain in her possession.

After some discussion, the President, having gone out of the room in the meanwhile announced to us that the question would be submitted to, and decided by, Congress. We were about to break up when Count Schouvaloff came in, and said that your Commission had decided that the possession of the position of Zevin and the trace of the line skirting the Valley of Alashgerd and Bayazid was to be left for future arrangement between Russia and Turkey.

I have no personal knowledge of the position in question, but from the importance attached to it by the Russian officers, and from the report I have heard of it from an English officer who was there during the war, it is evident that its loss will constitute a serious breach in the defence of the road leading from Kars to Erzeroum, as also in that of the road from Erzeroum to Bayazid, as its possession by Russia will render the defence of the road east of Keupri Keui, where the two roads diverge, quite impossible.

It is therefore of great importance—especially with reference to the defensive Treaty concluded with Turkey—that this position should not be ceded, but that Count Schouvaloff's own line should be maintained in its integrity.

I append a description of it, which can be drawn on the ground without difficulty.

The value of the territory is almost *nil*, as it consists chiefly of mountain pasturage, with only a few small and insignificant villages in the valley of the Araxes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. L. A. SIMMONS.

P.S.—Should Zevin be ceded, there will remain no defensive position in which a Russian invasion could be checked between the Russian frontier and Devi Bazoun, which is close to Erzeroum, and, in fact, may be considered as the immediate defence of that city.

J. L. A. S.

No. 232.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 4.)
My Lord, 32, *St. James' Place, May* 12, 1880.

I HAD the advantage of an informal conversation with his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador on the 10th May at your Lordship's house in the evening, in regard to the labours of the Eastern Roumelian Commission under Article XXIII of the Berlin Treaty. His Excellency said that he desired to take the opportunity of expressing a hope that, with a view to the security of the Turkish Empire, no unnecessary delay would take place in the labours of the Commission, and that no time would be wasted in the discussion of details, which might be conveniently left to future settlement. I replied to his Excellency that I felt convinced that it was the desire of Her Majesty's Government that no unnecessary delay should take place. In regard, however, to the discussion of details, I observed that, what to one person might appear a detail, to another might seem a question of principle, and that it was therefore impossible to lay down any general proposition on the subject. At the same time, I took the opportunity of thanking his Excellency for the expression of his desire for the speedy advancement of the labours of the Commission, and of his belief

* ? Objection.

that rapidity in the execution of Article XXIII was necessary for the security of the Turkish Empire.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 233.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(No. 127.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 11, 1880.

FOLLOWING received from Vice-Consul Brophy, dated Bourgas, yesterday:—

"Information from Cantons of Achialo and Aïdos in this department reports that for last five days nine Turkish villages have been and are still blockaded by soldiers of Principality and Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks. Full details are wanting, but certain that at least one village has been fired, that there has been wholesale murder, some men killed, and many women outraged; 2,166 fugitives escaped, and encamped on plains nearer Achialo.

"Please inform Mr. Michell, if still at Constantinople. Local authorities are informed officially by Achialo."

No. 234.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May* 11, 1880.

M. ZANCOF informs me that the frontier is open to the refugees who have the means of subsistence.

He will arrange with Nihat Pasha, whose nomination has been officially communicated to Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, that they should appoint somebody to facilitate return of those in the Vilayet of Adrianople, a list of whom has been communicated by Raouf Pasha. Several refugees have already returned in the neighbourhood of Kustendil.

No. 235.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12, 2·45 P.M.)

(No 36. Secret.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 12, 1880.

ALTHOUGH Prince Hohenlohe is very reserved and reticent in regard to Montenegrin question, I gather from other sources that Prince Bismarck believes the Porte to be quite unable to settle it without the assistance of other Powers. Austria having declared that she will not interfere, and would not like any other Powers to do so, Prince Bismarck will probably be in favour of letting the Albanian movement take its course unmolested for the present by foreign intervention. On the other hand, if the Powers more interested than Germany in Turkish Affairs agreed to interfere, and assist the Porte in carrying out the Convention of the 18th April, I do not expect that he would in any way object.

I am also under the impression that he would not even object to Italian interference if it should be proposed.

No. 236.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 12, 1·50 P.M.)

(No. 37. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 12, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE tells me that your Lordship's despatch No. 183 of the 4th instant has been submitted to the Emperor, and he hopes in a few days to be able to answer it officially.

Privately he told me that he thought that Prince Bismarck would agree with Her Majesty's Government to act in concert with the Signatory Powers at Constantinople in regard to the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 237.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 12, 1·30 P.M.*)

(No. 38.) (Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 12, 1880, 12·5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 62 of 11th instant.

German Government have not yet answered Russian Circular respecting Montenegro, but will probably answer it in the same sense as the French Government.

No. 238.

Earl Granville to Mr. St. John.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1880, 7·30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 49, you are at liberty to leave Prisrend if you apprehend any personal danger.

No. 239.

Earl Granville to Mr. Adams.

(No. 485.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1880.*

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith, for your information, copies of two despatches which I have addressed to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, recording conversations which I had with the Austrian Ambassador on the subject of the Montenegrin frontier question.*

I have to state to you that, at an interview which I subsequently had with the French Ambassador, I used the same language that I had previously held to Count Károlyi with regard to not resorting at present to armed intervention in this question.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 240.

Earl Granville to Mr. Michell.

(No. 28.) *Foreign Office, May 12, 1880.*

Sir,

I HAVE to state to you that the International Commission constituted under Article XVIII of the Treaty of Berlin is about to reassemble at Constantinople for the object specified in Article XXIII of that Treaty.

Sir H. Drummond Wolff and Lord Donoughmore will be unable, owing to their engagements in this country, to resume their duties on the Commission, and Her Majesty's Government will therefore be represented on the Commission by Lord E. Fitzmaurice, M.P. for Calne, who is about to proceed to Constantinople for that purpose.

It is not intended that a second Commissioner should be named to represent this country on the present occasion, and your connection with the Commission for the organization of Eastern Roumelia will therefore cease from the date on which you receive this despatch.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 241.

Earl Granville to Prince Lobanow.

Foreign Office, May 12, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government are ready to sanction at once the three Acts of Delimitation mentioned in the note from M. de Giers, communicated with your note of the 17th ultimo, namely:—

1. The Act of the 14th August, 1879, fixing the frontier between Bulgaria and Roumelia.

2. The Act of the 20th September, 1879, fixing (*a*) the Danubian frontier of Bulgaria; (*b*) the frontier between Bulgaria and Macedonia; (*c*) the frontier between Bulgaria and Servia.

* Nos. 153 and 175.

3. The Act of the 19th August, 1879, describing the new Servian frontier.

As regards the form in which the sanction is to be given, I have informed Count Károlyi that, if the other Governments assent to the suggestion which was made by Baron Haymerle to the Russian Government in his note to Count Kalnoky of the 27th April, that it should be signified by means of formal notes, Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to adopt it.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 242.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May 13.*)

(No. 44. Political.) *Salonica, May 1, 1880.*

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 42, Political, of the 25th July, 1879, furnishing information on the population, &c., of the four frontier districts of Thessaly, I have the honour to transmit herewith a Return which I have prepared relative to the population and disposition of landed property in the district of Allassona in that province.

The male population of Allassona is 9,928 (865 Turks and 9,063 Christians), representing a total of 34,315 souls, composed of 2,595 Turks, 26,438 Greeks, and 5,282 Vlachs.

The district contains 37 tchiftliks, all worked by Christian tenants (Greeks); 18 of these farms are owned by Turks, 7 by Christians, and 12 by Christians and Turks jointly.

The annual Government revenue of the district does not exceed 25,000*l.*, chiefly derived from the following taxes:—

	£
Verghi	3,100
Military commutation	2,500
Tithes	7,700
Sheep	6,000
	19,300

Not having visited the town of Allassona, I am unable to give a description of it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 242.

RETURN of the Population of the Towns, Villages, and Estates in the District of Allassona, in Thessaly.

Towns.

Name.	Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christian (Greeks).	Total.	
Allassona ..	113	75	188	194	110	304	About six hours' distance from Larissa.

Turkish Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population.	Remarks.
1	Pazarlon	22	68	These three villages are situate about three hours from Allassona.
2	Bairaklon	17	40	
3	Ormanlon (in Greek, Sadovo) ..	85	233	
	Totals	124	341	

Mixed Turkish and Christian Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
		Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christian (Greeks).	Total.	
1	Asha-Ova, Orta-Mahalessi ..	45	17	62	83	52	135	Situate about half-an-hour from Allassona.
2	Asha-Ova, Zeind-Mahalessi ..	67	12	79	108	32	200	A large portion of the lands of this village belongs to heirs of late Reschid Pasha.
3	Demenie	97	45	142	89	333	422	
	Totals	209	74	283	340	417	757	

Christian Villages (Greek).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek).	Remarks.
1	Teharitchani (in Turkish, Kelicelou)	351	759	About half-an-hour from Allassona.
2	Verdi-Koussia	224	678	4 hours from Allassona and 11 from Larissa.
3	Valonida	72	189	3½ „ „
4	Cranica	88	233	7 „ „
5	Loutros	59	211	6 „ „
6	Dishkata	485	958	8 „ „
7	Telnipournia	17	71	5 „ „
8	Ai-Dimitri	76	186	6 „ „
9	Morna	14	37	8 „ „
10	Zjajako	40	96	10 „ „
11	Milia	68	219	10 „ „
	Totals	1,494	3,626	

Christian Villages (Koutzo-Vlach).

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Vlachs).	Remarks.
1	Vlacho-Livadio	425	1,151	4½ hours from Allassona.
2	Phteri	86	206	7 „ „
3	Colimoplos	207	438	6 „ „
	Totals	718	1,795	

Turkish Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Christian (Greek) Tenants (Male).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Arghiropol	4	14	Said Effendi, of Tirnova.
2	Girjova (in Greek, Gourjovali) ..	46	118	Crown property.
3	Lefterohor-Kebir	51	116	Heirs of late Reschid Pasha.
4	Lefterohor-Saghir	17	38	Salih Bey, and heirs of late Mustapha Bey.
5	Tchaissa (in Greek, Daoussi) ..	122	344	Ghalib Effendi, Raschid Effendi, and Said Effendi, &c.
6	Tchaissa-Saghir (in Greek, Daoussiouli)	7	20	Heirs of late Reschid Pasha, Ghalib Effendi, Rischid Effendi, and Abdi Effendi.
7	Milogousta	78	127	Heirs of late Reschid Pasha.
8	Scomba	13	25	Ditto.
9	Veleshnik	11	34	Ditto.
10	Mugoullah	55	102	Ishan Bey, Mahmoud Bey, Hadji Halil Effendi, &c.
11	Amour-Ovassi	62	101	Fehmi Effendi, Bins Bey, Husni Bey, &c.
12	Bounar-bashi (in Greek, Kephalo Vrissi)	7	13	Crown property.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Christian (Greek) Tenants (Male).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
13	Yanoto	38	84	Crown Property.
14	Coundourgotissa	40	100	Yussuf Effendi, Husni Bey, Ali Bey, &c.
15	Vrondoz	39	86	Ditto.
16	Mitchoon	23	50	Heirs of late Reschid Pasha.
17	Malish	11	32	Moolah Omer Agha, Mustapha Agha, Hiindi Effendi, &c.
18	Drianovo	53	104	Heirs of Salih Bey and Arslan Bey, &c.
	Totals	667	1,628	

Christian Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Greek Tenants.	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Besheritza	7	26	Greek monastery of Panayia.
2	Vouvaila	56	131	Ditto.
3	Pharmaki	19	40	Ditto.
4	Karaghol	14	30	Ditto.
5	Klissoura	17	70	Zoga Kir Anastash, Greek.
6	Caries	8	17	Kir Vassili, Greek.
7	Doublista	20	59	Greek monastery of St. Andon, Costa, Mihal, and Yani Papa Kir-Yoco, &c.
	Totals	141	375	

Turkish and Christian Joint Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Christian (Greek) Tenants (Male).	Remarks.
				Names of proprietors—
1	Tchernilo	9	25	Nejib Effendi, of Janina, and Mihalaki Hadji Costa, Greek.
2	Palio Castro	37	103	Salih Bey, Suleiman Bey, and Ismail Bey, and Greek Monastery of Analipsios.
3	Porter	39	109	Abdi Bey, and Gosho and Yanni Hadji Pero, Greeks.
4	Shikin	55	128	Part belongs to Crown, and part to Ismail Bey, Moolah Hassan, and Greek Monastery of Analepsios.
5	Vlaho Yian	55	138	Heirs of late Reschid Pasha, and Hadjico of Samarina, Greek.
6	Vourba	32	71	Husni Effendi and Shaban Agha, Greek Monastery of Panayia, and Mihal Zossaki.
7	Gligoz (in Greek, Gligovo) ..	36	84	Mostan Agha and Omer Effendi, and Yanul Mandjari, Greek.
8	Sheloss	51	111	Feizoullah Bey and Islam Bey, and Zossi Athanass and Yanul Dimo, Greeks.
9	Tinourler (in Greek, Demerdess)	18	35	Tahir Agha, Hadji Osman Effendi, and Moolah Omer, and Greek Monastery of St. Andon .. ..
10	Likoudi	35	86	Tahir Agha, Abdulrahman Bey, and Hassan, Hussein, and Osman Aghas; and Pappa Alexi, Greek.
11	Koulndji	61	147	Part belongs to Crown, and part to Salih Bey, Suleiman Bey, and Yussuf Bey; and Panayoti Marko, Greek.
12	Delinista	27	55	Abdul Latif Agha and Moolah Mustapha Agha, and Zossi Dimitri, Greek.
	Totals	424	1,112	

SUMMARY.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District of Allossona.	Number of Houses.			Male Population.		
	Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christian.	Total.
1 town	113	75	188	194	110	304
20 villages—						
3 Turkish	124	..	124	331	..	331
3 mixed, Turkish and Christian (Greek)	209	74	283	340	417	757
11 Christian (Greek)	..	1,494	1,494	..	3,626	3,626
3 Christian (Koutzo-Vlach) ..	..	718	718	..	1,795	1,795
37 estates—						
18 Turkish estates (Greek tenants)	..	667	667	..	1,628	1,628
7 Christian " " "	..	141	141	..	375	375
12 Christian and Turkish joint estates (Greek tenants) ..	..	424	424	..	1,112	1,112
Total	446	5,593	4,039	865	9,063	9,926

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Salonica, April 30, 1880.

No. 243.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 47. Political.)

Salonica, May 2, 1880.

My Lord,

THE inclosed is an extract of Mr. Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli's Trade Report, which I forwarded in my despatch No. 7, Commercial, of the 1st instant.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 243.

Extract from Acting Vice-Consul Pecchioli's Report upon the Trade of Cavalla during 1879.

LA misère du Sandjak de Drama est un fait qui saute aux yeux. Les paysans se vendent à Cavalla pour vendre les petits colliers de monnaie de leurs femmes et acheter le maïs. Les causes en sont: le manque de récolte absolu des céréales et du coton; la mauvaise foi de plusieurs négociants qui achètent le tabac et ne le payent pas, et les faillites; l'augmentation de la population par cause de l'immigration des fugitives Musulmans; le fort nombre de soldats diminuant tant de bras aux travaux des champs; les taxes arbitraires du Gouvernement perçues par des employés corrompus et sans humanité; le manque absolu de travaux publics que le Gouvernement n'a pas les moyens d'entretenir, et que la spéculation des capitalistes privés n'ose pas initier à cause de l'incertitude de l'avenir politique du pays et du peu de confiance dans le Gouvernement.

Heureusement le maïs est arrivé à Cavalla en quantité suffisante aux besoins, et la concurrence en a fait tomber le prix au grand avantage des pauvres cultivateurs.

Je crois tout-à-fait inutile de vous parler des différentes branches de l'Administration et des autorités locales, mes Rapports précédents vous ayant éclairés sur le sujet.

Qu'il me suffise de vous dire que le pays entier (et par ce mot j'entends tous ceux qui habitent la province, sans distinction de classe, religion, et nationalité) attende avec impatience et hâte la réalisation d'une forme de Gouvernement plus conforme à la civilisation moderne, que la Sublime Porte a promise, et l'Angleterre, à la tête des autres Puissances, tâche par des nobles efforts de faire étudier et mettre en exécution.

No. 244.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 48. Political.)

Salonica, May 2, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of my despatch of this date to Sir Henry Layard, with a copy of its inclosure, on the subject of the Special Commission which was formed at Monastir, under the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, to inquire into and report upon the new Organic Statutes for the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 244.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, May 2, 1880.

WITH reference to your Excellency's inquiries relative to the composition and results of the Special Commissions which have been organized at Monastir and Cossova to examine into and report upon the Organic Statutes for the Turkish provinces, I have the honour to report that I am informed by my correspondent at Monastir that the Commission there was instituted early last January, and was composed of eighteen members appointed by the Medjliss Idaré (Administrative Council) of that province.

According to the inclosed statement, 13 of these members were Mahommedan and 5 only non-Mahommedan (4 Christians and 1 Jew). All, with the exception of two, viz., Ilias Pasha, of the district of Dibra, and Nicolaos Douma, of that of Monastir, are directly connected with the Provincial Administration, 10 of them being elected members of the local Councils or Courts of Justice by the inhabitants of the Vilayet of Monastir.

Thirteen of the members on the Commission are natives of that vilayet.

The Commission concluded the inquiry, and forwarded its Report to Constantinople about a month ago.

Very little has transpired in regard to the modifications which have been introduced in the Organic Statutes, as the meetings of the Commission were held with closed doors, and the members were strictly required to reveal nothing respecting their discussions or proceedings. This, and, above all, the unequal proportion between the Mahommedan and non-Mahommedan elements in the Commission, gave rise to much criticism and a strong feeling of dissatisfaction on the part of the Christian community in the province.

With regard to the Commission instituted in the Vilayet of Cossova, Mr. Assistant Alvarez, who has been sent by me to Pristina to procure information on the subject, has not yet returned. I expect him back this evening or to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 244.

COMPOSITION of Special Commission at Monastir to Examine the Organic Statute for the Turkish Provinces.

Names of Members.	Country.	Religion.	Present Status or Occupation in the Province.
Shakir Effendi, President of the Commission	Anatolia	Mahommedan	Defterdar of the Vilayet of Monastir. Government appointment.
Ahmet Effendi	"	"	President of Criminal Court of Appeal. Government appointment.
Ahmet Bey	Rounneli	"	Procurator-General. Government appointment.
Mehmet Effendi	"	"	Secretary of Administrative Council. Government appointment.
Riza Bey	Monastir	"	Member of Local Council of Monastir*.
Malik Bey	"	"	Ditto*.
Sheref Effendi	"	"	Mufti and of Local Council of Monastir.
Sadik Bey	"	"	Member of Criminal Court of Appeal, Monastir*.
Tevfik Bey	"	"	Ditto*.
Sadoullah Bey	Dibra, Vilayet of Monastir	"	Member of Council of Dibra*.
Ilias Peshia	"	"	Landowner in District of Dibra.
Alio Bey	Koritza	"	Member of Council of Koritza (Giordja)*.
Beloul Bey	Castoria	"	Member of Council of Castoria*.
Aylos Pelagonius	Anatolia	Christian	Greek Archbishop of Monastir.
Giorgios Tchalli	Monastir	"	Member of Civil Court of Appeal of Monastir*.
Dimitri Christovitch	"	"	Member of Criminal Court of Appeal of Monastir*.
Nicolaos Douton	"	"	Merchant at Monastir.
Avram Effendi	"	Jew	Member of Council of Monastir*.

13 Mahommedans; 4 Christians; and 1 Jew.

* Elected Members by the inhabitants of the vilayet for the term of one year.

No. 245.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 202.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1880.*

I WAITED upon M. de Giers to-day to learn the Emperor's views in regard to the *modus operandi* of the Tripartite Commission, and was informed that General Hamley's suggestion had been so far complied with as that instructions had been sent this morning to General Stebnitski to postpone for the present all other business, and to turn his attention to the Karaourgan question. General Stebnitski will accordingly, immediately on his arrival at Constantinople, endeavour to reconcile the discrepancy stated to exist between the Russian and Turkish trace impinging on the parallel of Karaourgan. General Hamley will then be invited to enter, with General Stebnitski and his Turkish colleagues of the Tripartite Commission, upon the consideration of the point on the parallel of Karaourgan through which the line of delimitation should be drawn.

There is no doubt that the Russians would be glad to settle the trace north of Karaourgan in order to prejudge the question raised last year by Colonel Clarke as to the point from which the Tripartite Commission should start; but from the general character of M. de Giers' observations I am inclined to hope that General Stebnitski will have received instructions to enter into the projected discussion with General Hamley in a conciliatory spirit, and, if this is the case, there can be little doubt that General Hamley will be able to seize the opening thus afforded him, and reach a satisfactory settlement.

Should it, however, turn out that on the plea of discussing this disputed trace General Stebnitski shows an inclination to keep General Hamley at a distance, I will make a further appeal to M. de Giers and General Milintine. In the meantime it will be better to let General Hamley feel his way with General Stebnitski. M. de Giers is undoubtedly willing to have the whole thing settled out of hand, but as it is a matter to which the Emperor has given his personal attention, and about which he has shown a good deal of irritation, it is not advisable that I should press M. de Giers further for the present.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 246.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 203.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 8, 1880.*

M. DE GIERS referred to-day to the Montenegrin difficulty. He is afraid it will give rise to very serious complications. He is very keen to put more than moral pressure upon the Porte, though evidently he does not see how it is to be managed. Towards the end of our conversation he said, "I have an excellent idea for settling the matter, but it would be hopeless to propose it." On my pressing him to tell me what it was, he said that "the Austrians should give up a corner of the Herzegovina, where there is a cognate and sympathetic population to Montenegro, as an equivalent to what they are entitled to in the south. The Austrians are the most interested in having the peace kept in that part of the world, and if they were wise they would do what I say."

As my Austrian colleague had quitted M. de Giers' room as I entered, I asked M. de Giers if he had made such a suggestion to Count Kalnoky, on which M. de Giers replied, "God forbid that I should do so." I imagine, however, that his Excellency intended that I should confidentially convey his notion to your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 247.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 204.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 10, 1880.*

I OUGHT to have added in my despatch No. 202 of the 8th instant that M. de Giers is quite willing, as already telegraphed to your Lordship, that, immediately after the starting-point on the parallel of Karaourgan has been settled at Constantinople, the Tripartite Delimitation Commission should proceed to the frontier to commence their task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 248.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 13.)

(No. 214. Most Confidential.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 8, 1880.*

COUNT CORTI, the Italian Minister at Constantinople, whose arrival in Rome I mentioned in my despatch No. 198 of the 2nd instant, passed through Vienna on his way home on leave of absence, and saw Baron Haymerle, with whom he had a long conversation, some account of which he has been good enough to impart to me very confidentially.

Count Corti's interview with Baron Haymerle took place on the very day when his Excellency had received the intelligence of the Turks having failed to carry out the stipulations of the Convention for the evacuation of the territory to be ceded to Montenegro, and he communicated it to Count Corti, who at once said that he looked upon what had occurred in the most serious light; that he felt convinced, from circumstances which had come to his knowledge before leaving Constantinople, that the breach of faith on the part of the Turkish Commanders had had the direct sanction of the Sultan, and that therefore he did not believe that even if the Turkish Government should, under the pressure of the Powers, be willing now to reoccupy the territory and carry out the letter of the engagement entered into with Montenegro they would, taking into account the opposition which would be met with at the Palace, be strong enough to give effect to their wishes.

Under these circumstances Count Corti says that he told Baron Haymerle it was necessary that Austria should ponder well the course she intended to pursue, for upon her action he conceived that that of the other Powers would depend. Germany, he went on to say, notoriously took no direct interest in the affairs of the Balkan Peninsula; whatever

policy was adopted by Austria would be followed by her. He felt confident also that England under the Liberal Government would be as desirous for cordial relations and a good understanding with Austria upon Eastern affairs as under the Conservative Administration. France would certainly not take a separate line of her own, and when an understanding had been established between the Powers he had named there could be no doubt that Italy would likewise join it. He repeated, therefore, to Baron Haymerle, his conviction that the mode in which this question was to be solved depended in the main upon the line which should be taken by the Austro-Hungarian Government.

Baron Haymerle's reply was to the effect that he was entirely opposed to any foreign armed intervention in the affairs between Turkey, Albania, and Montenegro. Austria felt secure in the position she occupies in Bosnia and Herzegovina, but she had not the slightest wish, he said, to mix herself up in the Albanian affair. "The Albanians," to quote the phrase mentioned to me by Count Corti as having been used by Baron Haymerle, "the Albanians may boil in their own water." He was convinced that any foreign intervention would lead to serious European complications, and this he was most anxious to avoid. He even begged Count Corti not only not to excite his own Government on this question, but even to calm them down if it should be necessary, which Count Corti promised to do.

I asked Count Corti whether Baron Haymerle had given him the impression of being equally opposed to the extension of Austrian interference further south, independently of Albania, in the direction of Salonica, for instance. He replied that he had; that speaking of the condition of Turkey in general, Baron Haymerle had expressed the opinion—in which I should state that Count Corti agrees—that the Turkish Empire was gradually but surely breaking up, and that the Albanian incident was only a symptom of the impending catastrophe. Events, however, he said, must be left to develop themselves, for that any attempt of the Powers to interfere with their natural course would only hasten the end, and be calculated to bring about a worse disaster—a European war.

Count Corti's decided conviction, and his great knowledge and experience of the East entitles it to consideration, is that the rising of the Albanians in defence of the integrity of their territory is merely a mask and a pretext under which they conceal their real object, viz., the acquisition of their independence, and that whenever they have possessed themselves of arms, ammunition, and supplies in which they are now wanting, and have defeated the Montenegrins, they will turn against the troops of the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 249.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 215.)
My Lord, *Rome, May* 8, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 59 of yesterday's date, recording a telegram from Sir H. Elliot of the 5th instant reporting a communication made by the Russian Ambassador to the Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs relative to a proposed joint intimation to be addressed by the Powers, calling upon the Porte to carry out the recent arrangement about Montenegro, &c., and stating the answer given by Baron Haymerle to this communication, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs this morning, and ascertained that a similar communication had been made by the Russian Ambassador here to the Italian Government.

The reply of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, which Count Maffei congratulated himself as having been nearly identical with that of the Austrian Government, having been already made known to your Lordship through Count Menabrea, I am dispensed the necessity of troubling your Lordship with the particulars of it as given to me by Count Maffei.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 250.

Count Károlyi to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 13.)

(Confidential.)
My dear Granville, 18, *Belgrave Square, May* 13, 1880.

I WILL not trouble you to-day with a visit, your time being already fully taken up by the Drawing-room.

I have received, to be communicated to you, the following telegram, addressed yesterday by Baron Haymerle to Count Dubsky at Constantinople:—

"We hear that troops have been ordered to Scutari. Will you concert with your colleagues whether it would not be appropriate to employ the troops first arriving at Scutari as a military cordon, in order to prevent the conveying of supplies and ammunition, as well by sea as by land, from Scutari to the Lem territory, and to render thus the occupation and the fighting in those parts more difficult to the Albanians? But you will undertake such steps at the Porte only jointly with your colleagues."

Do you approve of this step?

Very sincerely, &c.
(Signed) KÁROLYI.

No. 251.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 229.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 12, 1880.

THE Sultan has just sent to inform me that he has signified his acceptance of Mr. Goschen's appointment.

No. 252.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 13.)

(No. 230.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 13, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 123.

Time for meeting of the Commission is not fixed. Minister for Foreign Affairs said the day before yesterday that if the British Commissioner left at the end of a week he would be in time.

No. 253.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 13, 1880, 10·45 P.M.

IT has been decided that Mr. Goschen should visit Vienna and then go by Trieste. You shall be informed of the day when he will arrive.

No. 254.

Mr. Corbett to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 14.)

(No. 109.)
My Lord, *Athens, April* 5, 1880.

IN the *pro-memoriâ responsif*, dated the 11th March last, placed in the hands of Sir H. Layard by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, and communicated to your Lordship by Musurus Pasha on the 16th of the same month (of which a copy was inclosed to me in your Lordship's despatch No. 31 of the 26th ultimo), mention is made of the numerous emissaries of the Greek Government supported at great cost in the provinces which this country aspires to the possession of.

M. Delyanni, the late Minister for Foreign Affairs, as I have reported to your Lordship in former despatches, has always assured me, and I believe truly, that the Government of which he was a member had, over since the mediation of the Powers for the

settlement of the Frontier question had been invoked, sedulously abstained from all attempts to encourage any demonstration in those provinces in favour of annexation to Greece.

I spoke yesterday to M. Tricoupi on the subject, and he assured me no less positively that the late Government had not done anything of the kind, and that the present Government was equally determined to act in the same way, and that they had no funds whatever to be employed for such a purpose. His Excellency told me at the same time that from the report of the Greek Consuls in Epirus it was certain that the Ottoman Government had brought down from the north considerable numbers of Albanians, in order to make demonstrations in favour of the Turks, and create the impression that the inhabitants were favourable to the Turkish rule; in fact, were now acting exactly as they did during the conferences at Prevesa last year, when Moukhtar Pasha assembled the Albanian Chiefs in that town.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 255.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 218.)
Rome, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to receive, the day before yesterday morning, your Lordship's despatch No. 195 of the 4th instant, setting forth the views of Her Majesty's Government as to the course to be pursued by the Powers collectively in order to obtain from the Porte the execution of certain provisions of the Treaty of Berlin which yet remain unfulfilled, directing me to read and give a copy of this despatch to the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs, and to request the co-operation of the Italian Government in the measures proposed.

I immediately wrote to Count Maffei, the Secretary-General of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, requesting to know when I could see M. Cairoli for the purpose of making this communication. Count Maffei called shortly afterwards to inform me that M. Cairoli's engagements would not permit him to receive me that day, and I therefore read to Count Maffei, and gave him a copy of your Lordship's despatch, the answer upon which, on the part of the Italian Government, he promised to acquaint me with as soon as possible.

Yesterday evening I received a note from Count Maffei, in which he says:—

"Excuse the delay of my answer, but M. Cairoli has been so busy that I have had some difficulty in finding a moment for putting under his eyes the copy of the despatch you gave me yesterday, after you had read its contents to me.

"I am now in a position to tell you that we shall be very happy to join Her Majesty's Government in the execution of the steps proposed by the above-mentioned despatch.

"We only beg leave to observe that, with reference to Montenegro, something has been done already, and therefore it would appear advisable to wait until the Porte gives an answer to the last collective note presented by the Ambassadors at Constantinople on the 3rd instant. It is true that Lord Granville's despatch bears the date of the 4th, but evidently the measures contemplated therein had been decided upon before the said collective note had been sent to the Turkish Cabinet."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 256.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 219.)
Rome, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

ALTHOUGH not authorized to do so, I ventured to take upon myself to read to Count Maffei, in the interview I had with him the day before yesterday (referred to in my previous despatch of this day), your Lordship's despatch No. 193 of the 30th ultimo, recounting the conversation between your Lordship and Count Menabrea on the occasion of the general reception of the Corps Diplomatique by your Lordship on that day.

Count Maffei said that a similar report had been received from Count Menabrea of this interview, and the friendly sentiments towards Italy which had been expressed by your Lordship, and the desire of Her Majesty's Government to co-operate with the Italian Government in matters of European interest in the East, had been a source of great gratification to the Italian Government.

He added that it would be a great pleasure to M. Cairoli to see this report of Count Menabrea's confirmed in your Lordship's own words, and he therefore asked me to allow him to take this despatch to show to his Excellency, which I did.

In sending it back to me last evening, Count Maffei says:—

"I return with thanks the other despatch of Lord Granville's, which, of course, has given the President the highest satisfaction."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 257.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14, 11·30 A.M.)

(No. 233.)
(Telegraphic.)
Constantinople, May 14, 1880, 9·20 A.M.

FOLLOWING from Vice-Consul at Bourgas to-day:—

"Latest official news from Achill report six Turkish villages—Lopatchlar, Kediler, Odiveh, Hodarlar, Youssouf, Chabanlar Karamoone—completely burnt and pillaged by Bulgarian Bashi-Bazouks. Number of killed unknown as yet, but it is certain that horrible atrocities have been committed, especially on women. District in question is still in hands of Bulgarian brigands, and it is probable that other villages have been or will be destroyed by them."

No. 258.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 14, 1880.

TELEGRAM is being sent to Count Károlyi stating that Austrian Government accept your Lordship's proposal of an identic note to the Porte, calling upon it to execute the Treaty of Berlin, and especially as regards Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

If the other Powers consent, Baron Haymerle proposes that your Lordship should prepare the draft of the note to be agreed upon.

No. 259.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 14.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 14, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Minister at Constantinople has been instructed, if his colleagues can act with him, but not otherwise, to call upon the Porte to establish a cordon between Scutari and Albanians, to prevent supplies reaching them from thence.

No. 260.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 14, 1880, 3 P.M.

IT is reported to Austrian Government that about 9,000 rations of bread are daily taken from Scutari to the Albanian camps. Does this agree with your information?

No. 261.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 141.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1880, 4·30 P.M.

AUSTRIAN Ambassador has communicated following telegram, sent yesterday by Austrian Government to Austrian Ambassador at Constantinople:—

"We hear that troops have been ordered to Scutari. Will you concert with your colleagues whether it would not be appropriate to employ the troops first arriving at Scutari as a military cordon in order to prevent the conveying of supplies and ammunition as well by sea as by land, from Scutari to the Zem territory, and to render thus the occupation and the fighting in those parts more difficult to the Albanians. But you will undertake such steps at the Porte only jointly with your colleagues."

You are authorized to act with the Austrian Ambassador in this matter if your colleagues do so.

No. 262.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 142.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1880, 3·45 P.M.

LORD EDMUND FITZMAURICE left yesterday for Constantinople, viâ Vienna.

No. 263.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 321.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1880.

COUNT KÁROLYI has communicated to me a telegram, which was yesterday dispatched by the Austrian Government to their Ambassador at Constantinople, and which is to the following effect:—

The Austrian Government hearing that the Porte has ordered troops to proceed to Scutari, instruct their Ambassador at Constantinople to concert with his colleagues whether it would not be advisable that the troops which first arrive at Scutari should be employed in the formation of a military cordon so as to prevent ammunition and supplies being conveyed as well by sea as by land from Scutari to the Lem territory, and by this means put greater difficulties in the way of the Albanians as regards the fighting and occupation of territory in those parts of the country.

The telegram concludes by impressing upon Count Dubsky the importance of only taking such steps at the Porte conjointly with his colleagues.

Her Majesty's Government authorize your Excellency to support the action of the Austrian Ambassador in this matter, if the rest of your colleagues are likewise authorized to do so by their respective Governments.

I communicated the substance of the above despatch to your Excellency by telegraph.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 264.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 50.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1880.

IN reply to your telegram of the 11th instant, asking whether the nomination of M. Callimaki Catargi as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary from the Prince of Roumania to this Court would be agreeable to the Queen, I this day informed you by telegraph that Her Majesty has signified her assent to the above appointment, and has expressed her willingness to receive M. Catargi as Roumanian Minister in this country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 265.

Earl Granville to Count Károlyi.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *Foreign Office, May* 14, 1880.

I HAVE to thank your Excellency for the communication made by you yesterday of the telegram from Baron Haymerle to Count Dubsky, suggesting that the Porte should be invited to employ, in the first instance, the troops sent to Albania in preventing the supply of food and ammunition to the Lem territory from Scutari.

Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople has been instructed by telegraph to support the suggested representation if the Representatives of the other Powers receive similar instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 266.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord, *Corfu, May* 11, 1880.

FROM the movements of the agents of the Epirot "Committee" in Athens, as reported in my Confidential despatches of the 1st and 13th ultimo, I directed the Vice-Consul at Santa Maura—the present centre of Greek intrigues—to give his utmost attention to what might transpire within his district, and to report to me at once what might come to his knowledge only from reliable sources.

I have this morning received a despatch from him, copy of which I have the honour to inclose, and which will give your Lordship a general idea of the state of affairs in the neighbourhood of Santa Maura.

During the past week four Italian iron-clads, under the command of Rear-Admiral Fingati, united here from the Pireus, Patras, Zantr, and some other points of the Ionian Islands, which, as yet, I have not been able to ascertain. They did not, however, touch at Santa Maura or Cephalonia.

I have been reliably informed that the Italian Vice-Consul at Prevesa has had frequent interviews with Albanian notabilities and members of the "League," and from what I have heard of other Italian agents, it would appear that they are all doing their best in stirring up the Albanian agitation.

The Greeks assert that they have strong reasons to suspect that while, on the one hand, the Turks have been furnishing the Albanians with war material, the Italians, on the other, are supplying them with money, and they account in this way for the fact that the Albanians are boasting that they can dispose of money enough to carry on a long struggle with the Greeks.

It appears that the Austrians are opening their eyes more in this quarter; their Consular Agency at Prevesa has been, I hear, raised to a Vice-Consulate with an increase of salary.

I have just heard from a good source that Wessel Bey, an energetic and influential Albanian Notable, is on his way to Corfu in a Turkish despatch-boat, from whence he is to proceed to Constantinople, having been urgently sent for.

The recently-appointed Governor-General of Janina, Mustafa Assym Pasha, passed through this about ten days ago on his way to his post.

Having been formerly well acquainted with him, I had a conversation with his Excellency, and whilst speaking of the deplorable state of his province, I ventured to urge him to take steps to put down the disorders that could not but be contrary to the interest of the Porte. I was yesterday informed that his Excellency, immediately on his arrival at Janina, dispatched a battalion of troops to Margarite, the centre of the most disturbed quarter, and who have already arrested a number of the marauders, and are otherwise taking measures for tranquillizing the provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 266.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report, on the strength of authoritative information from the frontier, that 150 barrels of gunpowder, said to have been shipped at Malta, were smuggled a few days ago into the district of Arta, but it has not yet transpired whether the Greek Committees were concerned in this affair or not. Considering, however, that the Mahommedan Albanians are being organized for resistance, and that their attitude is becoming at once more threatening and defiant, there is room for believing that the defenceless Christian inhabitants of the border districts are, in their turn, taking steps for any emergency. Moreover, they have to depend entirely upon their own resources for protection from the numerous bands of brigands—mostly Turkish deserters—that are spreading terror all over the district, the Turkish authorities having hitherto proved powerless to check these marauders.

2. The news came from Prevesa this morning that serious disturbances were apprehended last week at Parga. It appears that two Albanian agitators, who, in consequence of recent disturbances at Mazaraki and Paramythiá, had been imprisoned at Parga, succeeded with the aid of their partisans in effecting their escape from prison, and in rallying a considerable body of Albanians bent on mischief, fully determined to prevent the recapture of the two agitators. A collision with the troops seemed imminent; but Hydaiet Pasha, Commander-in-chief of the forces in Epirus, who arrived at Parga on the 30th ultimo, by a special Government boat from Prevesa, with a reinforcement of infantry and 100 Circassian cavalry, succeeded in maintaining order, but the excitement among the Albanians continues to increase. His Excellency was accompanied by Wessel Bey, a leading member of the "League," and one of the principal and most influential land-owners in the district.

3. Wessel Bey has since been summoned telegraphically to Constantinople, and proceeds to Corfu to-morrow to catch Monday's Austrian boat for the capital.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ONOFRIO.

No. 267.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 380.)
Paris, May 14, 1880.

My Lord,

I THIS morning read to M. de Freycinet your Lordship's despatch No. 452 of the 4th instant, and gave him a copy of it. I communicated to him at the same time the contents of your Lordship's despatch No. 481 of the 11th instant, and I left with him a copy of that despatch also.

As your Lordship is aware, the first of these despatches contains the proposal that the Representatives of the six Great Powers at Constantinople shall be instructed to address simultaneous and identic notes to the Porte requiring it to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty of Berlin with regard to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

The second despatch is that which refers to the proposed International Commission to determine the Greco-Turkish frontier, and suggests that the identic note to the Porte should contain an alternative proposal that a Conference of the Representatives of the mediating Powers on the Greek question should be held in the first instance at Paris or Berlin.

M. de Freycinet seemed to be well inclined towards both the proposals of Her Majesty's Government, but said that before giving a definitive answer to them he would take a short time to examine them.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 268.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 381. Confidential.)
Paris, May 14, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 380 of to-day, I have the honour to report to your Lordship that M. de Freycinet told me this morning that he was informed by telegraph from Berlin that Count Münster had been directed to inform your Lordship that Prince Bismarck was of opinion that the proposed Conference on the Greek frontier question should take place at Berlin.

M. de Freycinet said that if this were so, the French Government would be perfectly willing that the Conference should be held in that capital.

Speaking unofficially, his Excellency said that he was sorry that the Conference was to be proposed to the Porte only as an alternative which might be adopted in lieu of what be called the technical Commission suggested by the Marquis of Salisbury. He was afraid that the Porte might choose the technical Commission, as being more complicated and giving more scope for delay. He should have preferred a simple declaration to the Porte that, as it had made difficulties about the Commission proceeding to Turkey, the Powers had determined to hold a Conference in one of their own capitals.

He dreaded, he said, the delay which might be the result of giving the Porte any option in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 269.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 39. Very Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.)
Berlin, May 14, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE tells me that the answer to your Lordship's Circular of the 4th instant, accepting the proposal of Her Majesty's Government to act in concert at Constantinople, will be sent to-morrow to Count Münster, and that Prince Bismarck is also willing to accede to the wish of the French Government that the Greek Frontier Commission should meet in Berlin.

No. 270.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15.)

(No. 67.)
(Telegraphic.)
St. Petersburgh, May 15, 1880, 4·45 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 176.

M. de Giers has expressed the satisfaction of the Russian Government at the prospect of European concert on Eastern question being re-established, and states that they are prepared to instruct their Representative at Constantinople to join his colleagues in presenting an identical note to the Porte on the subject of Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia. M. de Giers suggests that Her Majesty's Government should draw up the draft.

With regard to Montenegro, Imperial Cabinet is of opinion that, in the event of a collective European note being insufficient to prevent outbreak of hostilities, England should take the initiative in establishing an understanding between the Powers as to the further measures to be adopted.

The Imperial Cabinet awaits the answer of Her Majesty's Government on the above two points.

No. 271.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 15, 5·30 P.M.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 15, 1880, 5 P.M.*

THE Emperor, at a review to-day, expressed to me his very great satisfaction at terms of your Lordship's despatch which contained the suggestion of a united concert between the Great Powers to carry out the Treaty of Berlin.

No. 272.

*Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.**

(No. 97.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 15, 1880, 3·30 P.M.*

YOUR telegram No. 56.

I have proposed to Count Károlyi that the identic note should follow as nearly as possible the words of my Circular despatch of the 4th instant, and that the language should be left to the Ambassadors at Constantinople. I added that I did not propose that fuller details should be gone into in the note, and that, as regards Montenegro and Greece, the matters were already on hand.

No. 273.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 232.) *Foreign Office, May 15, 1880.*

Sir,

COUNT KÁROLYI has informed me, as I was led to expect by your Excellency's telegram of yesterday (No. 56), that the Austro-Hungarian Government are prepared to accept the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, that the Representatives of the Treaty Powers at Constantinople should be instructed to address an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte, requesting the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia; and his Excellency suggested that I should prepare the draft of the note.

I replied that my idea was that the wording of the note should follow as nearly as possible the words of my Circular despatch of the 4th instant, but that the exact language should be settled by the Ambassadors at Constantinople. It was not, I said, my intention to propose that the note should go into fuller details than the despatch, especially as negotiations were already in progress respecting the Greek and Montenegrin questions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 274.

Consul Brophy to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

Bourgas, May 15, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

SINCE 5th May thirteen Turkish villages in this department have been burnt and plundered by armed Bulgarian peasants who [?] have committed horrible outrages on them. Number of Turks killed uncertain as yet, as district is in power of Bulgarian brigands, and authorities seem either paralyzed or accomplices.

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* Reported to Lord Lyons, Lord Odo Russell, the Earl of Dufferin, Sir A. H. Layard, and Sir A. Paget.

No. 275.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 15, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, 4,000 rations of flour are deported from this daily. Tribes on immediate frontier, for whose defence force is collected, subsist themselves.

Actual band of Albanians there is about 6,000, and capable of being quickly increased to 8,000. If hostilities commence from 20,000 to 25,000 would probably assemble.

No. 276.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) *Bucharest, May 16, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 52 to 55, and with reference to your despatch No. 12, I shall make a proposal to the Roumanian Government to settle the difficulty by an exchange of notes previous to ratification as soon as I shall receive Treaty and French text of explanations which Her Majesty's Government wishes to have for presentation to Parliament, together with Tariff and copy of Commercial Treaty signed.

An Additional Article or Protocol to the same effect would be inoperative unless sanctioned by the Legislature, and if demanded the Treaty would have to wait for ratification till next Session, and might possibly fall in consequence.

No. 277.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 16, 1880.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 65.

German Government agree to military cordon between Scutari and Albanians if other Powers consent.

No. 278.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 236.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1880.*

TURKISH Minister for Foreign Affairs has replied to collective note of 3rd instant on Montenegrin question that if Signatory Powers shall not be satisfied with explanations given by the Porte, it proposes that, before coming to a decision, an inquiry should be made into facts connected with the evacuation of the Turkish positions, and leaves to the Signatory Powers to determine the form and conditions of this inquiry. When the truth is known, Porte will, in deliberation with the Powers, consider the measures necessary to be taken to remove existing difficulties without giving rise to [?] and effusion of blood.

No. 279.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 237.)
(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May 16, 1880.*

ORDERS have been given by the Porte to the Administrator of the Customs to receive the medjidieh at 20 piastres, thus acceding to my demand.

No. 280.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 238.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 16, 1880.

YOUR telegrams Nos. 141 and 146.

Austrian Minister and Italian Chargé d'Affaires made official representations yesterday to the Porte in the sense of the communication from the Austrian Government, and I understand that my other colleagues have done or are about to do the same, only the Russian Chargé d'Affaires making difficulties.

I have consequently informed Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day that Her Majesty's Government associate themselves with Austria in this matter. Prime Minister has, I understand, replied that instructions would be sent to the military authorities at Scutari to act as far as possible upon the Austrian suggestion.

No. 281.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 16.)

(No. 239.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 16, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 150.

I have no personal objection whatever to your taking away the prefix "Secret" from my despatch of the 27th April, but if you publish it there are many things in it which, if not omitted, might seriously compromise our interests, and affect Mr. Goschen's influence and position. For instance, all allusions to the Sultan's mental malady, my French and other colleagues, and matters of that kind, should be struck out. However, I leave it to you to do what you think right and proper.

No. 283.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 146.)

Athens, May 7, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Italian Admiral, Fincati, commanding a squadron which has been lately cruizing in the Levant, when at Patras last week received orders to return to the Piræus in order to attend the christening of Princess Olga.

He left the Piræus yesterday with his flag-ship, and the whole squadron will proceed to Corfu, and visit, it is said, the coast of Albania.

It is rumoured that this expedition of Italian ships of war in that direction is not unconnected with the insurrectionary movement reported to be taking place in Albania and Epirus.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 284.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 50. Political.)

Salonica, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of the despatch and its inclosure which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard in reference to a recent Circular from the Greek Government to the Great Powers, as published in some of the Continental newspapers, complaining of the action of the Governors-General of Salonica and Janina in connection with the execution of the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 284.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Salonica, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

THE Circular of the Greek Government to the Great Powers, as published in some of the Continental newspapers, representing that Abeddin Pasha, Governor-General of Salonica, and Ahmet Rassim Pasha, Governor-General of Janina, were secretly making arrangements to oppose the fulfilment of the clause of the Treaty of Berlin relative to the rectification of the Greek frontier, has caused no little surprise among the leading members of the local Greek community. The design attributed to Abeddin Pasha is generally discredited; the authenticity of the Circular itself is even doubted by public opinion.

I transmit to your Excellency the accompanying translation of an article on the subject in the "Hermes," a Greek newspaper, which is published at this place.

My Hellenic colleague, M. Vatikiotis, who carefully watches the action of the Ottoman authorities in Macedonia, told me yesterday that so far he has observed nothing to complain of in the policy pursued by Abeddin Pasha; and acknowledged that his Excellency was doing his best to suppress brigandage in this province.

The fact that Abeddin Pasha had dispatched to Epirus, shortly after his arrival here, two officials to recruit 700 Albanians for the special police corps which he is organizing for service in Macedonia, may very likely, assuming the Circular above referred to to be authentic, have given rise to the suspicions reported by the Greek Consuls in the former province.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 284.

Extract from the "Hermes" of Salonica, dated May 7, 1880.

(Translation.)

AN article on the state of affairs in the "Neologos" * of the $\frac{14}{26}$th April last states that the Vienna newspapers publish a Circular of M. Tricoupis, dated the $\frac{22nd\ March}{3rd\ April}$, wherein the Greek Premier and Minister for Foreign Affairs asserts, on the authority of the reports of the Greek Consuls at Janina and Prevesa, that the Vali of Janina, in agreement with the Vali of Salonica, Abeddin Pasha, has summoned a meeting of Notables from Prevesa, Paramythia, and Margariti, for the purpose of creating obstacles to the labours of the Technical Commission to be appointed by the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin for the demarcation of the new frontier line.

We know not what foundation there is for the existence of such a Circular, but, as regards the connection the matter has with the Vali of Salonica, Abeddin Pasha, we are in a position to deny it in the most official manner.

Besides, what thinker can with reason be persuaded that this can be anything else but a pure invention. Hardly has a month elapsed since Abeddin Pasha's arrival here. When was this mutual understanding come to? When was the meeting of the Albanian Notables summoned? When were the Reports of the Greek Consuls drawn up and dispatched? When did M. Tricoupis compose and communicate to the Powers the Circular in question, and when was it known by the Vienna papers and published by them? In the space of only one month all this could only have been realized by a magic wand.

No. 285.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 223. Confidential.)

Vienna, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

I THIS morning received from your Lordship a copy of the telegram from Lord Dufferin, in which he reports the hint confidentially dropped to him by M. de Giers that

* Greek newspaper published at Constantinople.

the best solution of the Albanian frontier difficulty would be by the abandonment by Austria of some portion of the Herzegovina in favour of Montenegro.

It does not appear to me to admit of question that this would be the best arrangement if it were possible to arrive at it, but I doubt its being practicable.

A few days ago, when the attitude of the Albanians was becoming serious, I thought I would try with great caution to ascertain whether it would be possible to lead Baron Haymerle to suggest such an exchange as that hinted at by M. de Giers, but his Excellency's language quickly convinced me that it was not to be hoped for.

I said that it had always appeared to me that the extension to be given to Montenegro ought to be taken from the districts of which the inhabitants were known to be desirous of being annexed to it, instead of from Albania, where the transfer of populations of a different and hostile race was sure to provoke resistance and to perpetuate the existing feuds.

His Excellency's answer, that it would not have suited the Imperial Government to allow a further extension of Montenegro towards the north, satisfied me that, if that was the feeling before the Herzegovina was in the occupation of Austria, it was not now likely to be modified.

Count Andrassy was originally opposed to any attempt to touch Albanian territory, knowing the resistance with which it would be met, and since the Treaty of Berlin, when I asked him how he came to consent to a measure which he believed would lead to conflicts, he alleged, in his justification, that it was a part of the Treaty of San Stefano, which he could not object to on the plea of any direct Austrian interest.

It has never been explained why the Russian Government have made such a point of annexing to Montenegro districts that will be nearly worthless to her; but even before the war it was insisted upon at the Conference of Constantinople, and after it at San Stefano, and the result has proved exactly what was anticipated by those who knew the character of the people who were disposed of without their consent being asked and contrary to their will.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 286.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 11, 1880.*

THE Roumanian Government have directed their Minister here to communicate to Baron Haymerle a Report from the Prefect of Kustendjé, who had been sent to make inquiry into complaints of attacks upon Mussulman villages by armed bands of Bulgarians.

M. Balatchano tells me that the investigation of the Prefect fully established the fact that the pillage and destruction of the Mahommedan villages, which has been going on in Bulgaria, have in many instances been extended into the Roumanian territory, but that his Government has now sent to the Dobrudscha a force of cavalry and infantry which it is hoped will oblige these bands, among whom he states there are soldiers or militiamen, to confine their operations to their own Principality.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 287.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 225.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 11, 1880.*

THE Roumanian Minister told me to-day that his Government had been informed by their Envoy at Berlin that Her Majesty's Government had invited the Cabinet of Vienna to take the initiative on the question of Arab-Tabia, and to come to an agreement on it with the Russian Government, and he asked if I could tell him what the truth about it was.

I told M. Balatchano that I was not aware of any communication on the subject of Arab-Tabia having been made to the Austrian Government since your Lordship's accession to office; that this was one of the questions connected with the Treaty of Berlin, to

which the attention of Her Majesty's Government would no doubt soon be turned, with the hope of it being brought to a satisfactory solution.

The Roumanian Minister at Berlin is not unapt to startle his Government by reports of very questionable authenticity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 288.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 230. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 13, 1880.*

M. BALATCHANO, the Roumanian Minister, has spoken to me of a project which he says is causing much uneasiness to his Government, for the erection of a Confederation of States south of the Danube.

He trusted that Her Majesty's Government were not so indifferent to the interests of Roumania as to give countenance to a plan for the extension of the power of the Slavs by whom they are surrounded, and who constitute the main danger that the Principality has to fear.

He stated that he could assure me, as an undoubted fact, that the object of the projected visit of the Prince of Bulgaria to Servia was to see whether it would be possible to concert such a Confederation, in which Eastern Roumelia was to be included.

He asked me how such a scheme would be regarded by Her Majesty's Government, and whether it would be competent for a Prince of a vassal State like Bulgaria, or of a province still more closely attached to Turkey like Eastern Roumelia, to enter into such a Confederation.

I replied that it was obviously impossible for me to give him any answer to his questions, and that all I could tell him was that Her Majesty's Government were resolved that, as far as depended upon them, the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be scrupulously carried out. I could further assure him that Her Majesty's present Ministers had at all times felt the most lively interest in Roumania; and had shown this on more than one occasion in reproaching the late Government for its acquiescence in the retrocession of Bessarabia to Russia. Any apprehension that the interests of Roumania were now likely to be sacrificed or disregarded was therefore entirely uncalled for.

Baron Kallay, to whom I have since spoken on the subject, tells me that the Imperial Government have no reason to believe a project for the formation of a Slav Confederation to have anything to do with the proposed visit of Prince Alexander to Belgrade.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 289.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 13, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship the copy of a Report upon the affairs of Bosnia which I have received from M. Wietz, the French Vice-Consul at Serajevo, who is in charge of Her Majesty's Consulate during the absence of Mr. Freeman.

The statement which he reports Husni Pasha to have made to him of a demand from the Austrian Government for the repayment by the Porte of 1,200,000*l.* expended in roads and the erection of barracks since the occupation appeared to me so extraordinary, that I have made inquiry into its accuracy, and have received an assurance that it is altogether incorrect, no demand for any such repayment having been made.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 289.

M. Wietz to Sir H. Elliot.

Serajevo, le 30 Avril, 1880.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

J'AI l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que l'Archiduc Guillaume, Inspecteur-Général de l'Artillerie, est attendu le 20 Mai en cette Résidence. Son Altesse doit aller à Plevdje, et je ne manquerai pas de renseigner sur sa mission l'Ambassade de Sa Majesté Britannique.

M. Riva a reçu à la date du 28 de ce mois, des mains de M. Usigli, Vice-Consul Gérant, le service du Consulat d'Italie à Serajevo; celui-ci partira le 1er Mai.

J'ai encore à annoncer un départ, celui de Husni Pacha; le Commissaire Ottoman me faisant sa visite de congé aujourd'hui m'a déclaré que le 4 Mai il allait à Constantinople, et que de la capitale il comptait se rendre à Vienne, où l'appelle Edhem Pacha. Il laisse ici le Lieutenant-Colonel d'Etat-Major, Izzet Bey, pour le remplacer définitivement dans la Commission Mixte, qui continuera à être chargée de la révision de l'ancien matériel.

Husni Pacha m'a appris, également, que le Gouvernement Austro-Hongrois avait réclamé de la Porte la somme de 1,200,000*l.*, laquelle représenterait depuis l'occupation le prix des constructions et des réparations de routes, de casernes, &c.

Le 27 Mars (lettre No. 2), j'avais l'honneur de mentionner qu'il y avait eu une grande réunion au konak, réunion où il avait été décidé que notre Municipalité emprunterait pour la reconstruction de la ville une somme de 700,000 fl., donnant un intérêt de 5 pour cent, et amortissable en vingt-cinq ans. Des capitalistes de Vienne viennent d'accepter cet emprunt, et la somme sera ainsi répartie: 200,000 fl. affectés à une caserne, et à un casino d'officiers; 150,000 fl. à une mairie; et 350,000 fl. sont destinés à indemniser les propriétaires expropriés; si, sur ce dernier devis, des sommes restaient disponibles, on les emploierait à régler le cours de la Migliaska.

J'apprends aussi que les Ministères de la Guerre et des Finances sont tombés d'accord pour faire construire ici une Eglise Catholique, dont les dépenses seraient évaluées à 200,000 fl.

Demain, le 1er Mai, on posera la première pierre du casino des officiers.

[M. le Dr. Omrush, Chef de la Santé en Bosnie, m'assure que l'épizootie exerce toujours des ravages dans la province.]

J'ai à signaler le départ pour Vienne d'une députation de Musulmans, lesquels doivent exposer à Sa Majesté l'Empereur les plaintes de leurs coreligionnaires relativement aux difficultés que la question agraire continue à susciter.

M. Pecha, Vice-Consul d'Autriche-Hongrie, est parti d'ici pour Belgrade, sa nouvelle Résidence, et M. Pieschka, Vice-Consul Gérant de Mostar, est nommé à Smyrne. M. Holzinger, Gérant du Consulat-Général en cette Résidence, doit quitter en Mai, et son départ marquera la fin de la juridiction Consulaire Autrichienne en Bosnie et en Herzégovine.

En terminant, je demanderai de relater que les colons Allemands commencent à affluer dans les Sandjacks de Bihatch et de Banjaluka (au N.-O.)

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) G. WIETZ.

No. 290.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 206.)

My Lord,

St. Petersburgh, May 12, 1880.

I BEG to inclose a note I have received from M. de Giers, in which he intimates the acquiescence of the Russian Government with the views of your Lordship in regard to the reassembly of the Eastern Roumelian Commission.

The real reason why the Russian Government were inclined to prefer the constitution of an entirely new Commission arose from the fear lest if the Eastern Roumelian Commission were to reassemble it might claim to interfere in the affairs of Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.

(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 290.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

(Circulaire.)

M. le Comte,

St. Pétersbourg, le 28 Avril, 1880.

UN doute semble s'être élevé à la suite de notre Circulaire en date du 18 Avril, quant à la manière dont nous envisageons la Commission Européenne, qui doit procéder prochainement à l'examen des nouveaux Règlements pour l'administration des provinces Européennes de la Turquie.

Il semble résulter, en effet, de la réponse de quelques-uns des Cabinets à la proposition de réunir la Commission susmentionnée, que nous lui contestons la dénomination de "Commission pour la Roumélie Orientale," conforme au texte du Traité de Berlin.

Cette pensée est entièrement étrangère aux intentions du Cabinet Impérial. Le renouvellement complet du personnel de l'ancienne Commission qui a élaboré les Statuts de la Roumélie Orientale, explique seul ce malentendu, sans grande importance à nos yeux. Nous ne demandons pas mieux d'ailleurs que de nous rallier à l'observation des autres Cabinets et de maintenir à la nouvelle Commission le nom de la "Commission de la Roumélie Orientale," qui indique son origine et répond à la lettre du Traité de Berlin.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter ces explications à la connaissance de votre Gouvernement, je saisis cette occasion de vous réitérer, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 291.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 201. Secret.)

My Lord,

Berlin, May 12, 1880.

MY colleagues and I find Prince Hohenlohe, who is new to the work of the Foreign Office, still very reserved and reticent in regard to Oriental affairs, probably because Prince Bismarck wishes to take a secondary part only in questions Germany has no direct interest in, and wishes to follow the lead of his ally, Austria, who has a vital interest in the future fate of Turkey.

From private sources I gather that the German Government do not think the Porte able, even if willing, to carry out the Convention of the 18th April in regard to the Montenegrin frontier without the assistance of some other Power.

As, however, Austria has declared that she will not interfere, and that, as a neighbour, she would object to any other Power doing so, it is probable that Prince Bismarck will be in favour of letting the Albanian movement take its course unmolested by foreign intervention.

If, on the other hand, his ally, Austria, changed her mind, he would in no way object to active interference to assist the Porte in carrying out her Treaty obligations in Montenegro and Albania, not even if Italy were proposed by the Powers and willing to assist Turkey in carrying out the Convention of the 18th April, which was due to her influence and intervention at Constantinople.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 292.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 17.)

(No. 203. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Berlin, May 12, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 194 of the 7th instant, Prince Hohenlohe tells me that your Lordship's despatch No. 183 of the 4th instant respecting the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin has been submitted to the Emperor.

In a few days his Highness hopes to be in a position to answer it officially.

He added, privately, that he expected Prince Bismarck would agree to your Lordship's proposal.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 293.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 205.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May 12, 1880.*

THE Russian Government have not yet received an answer from the German Foreign Office to their Circular respecting the collective declaration they suggest should be addressed to the Porte in regard to the settlement of the Montenegrin difficulty, but I have reason to think that the German answer will be drawn up in the same sense as that of the French Government, which has been communicated to Prince Hohenlohe by Count de St. Vallier.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 294.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(No. 208. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May 14, 1880.*

IN obedience to your Lordship's instructions, I communicated your despatch No. 207 of the 12th instant to Prince Hohenlohe, and inquired whether the German Government would agree to the alternative proposal with regard to the Greek frontier question, which Her Majesty's Government proposed should be comprised in the joint representation, urging upon the Porte the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin.

Prince Hohenlohe said that the French Government had already communicated the proposal to him. Prince Bismarck, he said, was ready to accept it, and was also willing to accede to their wish that the Commission, if necessary, should meet in Berlin.

The official answer, his Highness said, would be sent early next week to the German Ambassador in London.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 295.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanoff.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanoff May 17.)

(Télégraphique.) *St. Pétersbourg, le* $\frac{5}{17}$ *Mai*, 1880.

LORD DUFFERIN nous a fait part de la proposition du Cabinet de Londres d'adresser à la Porte une note identique et simultanée pour l'exécution du Traité de Berlin.

Nous lui répondons que, pour notre part, nous acceptons cette proposition, si elle rencontre l'assentiment des autres Puissances, et nous signalons l'urgence d'une semblable démarche, surtout en ce qui concerne l'affaire du Monténégro.

En même temps, nous demandons si le Gouvernement Britannique ne jugerait pas nécessaire de nous communiquer le projet de cette note, afin d'établir un accord général sur sa rédaction définitive, et d'étendre cette entente préalable entre les Cabinets à la marche qu'ils devraient adopter en commun dans le cas où la Porte ne voudrait ou ne pourrait pas déférer à la demande collective des Grandes Puissances.

No. 296.

M. Gennadius to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

My Lord, *London, May 14, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith, a copy of a Report of His Majesty's Consul at Larissa, which I have received from M. Tricoupi.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. GENNADIUS.

Inclosure in No. 296.

M. Palamidis to M. Tricoupi.

Excellence, *Larisse, le 2 Avril*, 1880.

FAISANT suite à ma dépêche j'ai l'honneur de vous informer que la sécurité publique en Thessalie a entièrement disparu. Ce ne sont plus seulement ceux que leurs affaires obligent de se transporter d'un lieu à l'autre qui risquent d'être dévalisés et massacrés par les bandits, mais encore les habitants des bourgades et des villages situés tout près de Larisse.

Un crime horrible a été perpétré, le 7 de ce mois, dans le village Népal, distant de Larisse de vingt minutes à peine, et cela sous les yeux de l'autorité militaire. Une bande nombreuse composée tout au moins de vingt-cinq hommes (on ne sait pas encore au juste combien ils étaient, mais les paysans parlent d'une quarantaine de compagnons), dont quelques-uns même étaient à cheval, envahit le susdit village, sur les 3 heures du soir à la Turque, cerna la maison de Jean Karteroul, riche Chrétien de ce village, et après une fusillade de quatre heures, à laquelle prirent part presque tous les habitants (qui tiraient de leurs maisons), la résistance vigoureuse de Karteouli ayant cessé à cause de l'épuisement de ses munitions, parvint à enfoncer la porte de la maison et à y pénétrer; une fois entrés, les bandits maltraitèrent cruellement Karteouli et sa femme et leur enlevèrent £T. 2,000 environ (tant en espèces qu'en objets précieux), puis ils tuèrent l'infortuné Karteouli en lui fracassant le crâne d'un coup de massue, et ils poignardèrent sa femme, après lui avoir, au préalable, brûlé les seins avec du pétrole. Les scélérats n'épargnèrent que la petite fille de leurs victimes, âgée de 3 ans; un petit domestique de 12 ans put aussi échapper à la mort en se cachant sous un tas de laine. Bien grande est l'horreur que cet abominable forfait inspira aux habitants de Larisse; mais il leur causa, en outre, un effroi indicible, car ils tremblent aussi pour eux-mêmes, voyant qu'ils ne peuvent espérer aucune protection ni pour leur vie ni pour leurs fortunes, puisque d'aussi épouvantables crimes se perpètrent sous les yeux même des autorités, aux portes de Larisse, Népal n'en étant éloigné, je le répète, que de vingt minutes à peine. Et dire que les sentinelles qui se trouvaient sur nos remparts entendaient distinctement la fusillade qui a duré quatre heures et voyaient fort bien les éclairs produits par chaque coup de feu et que, cependant, c'est à peine si vingt-quatre heures plus tard les autorités ont envoyé un détachement de cavalerie à la poursuite des malfaiteurs!

Il est à remarquer que dans cette affaire il y a certaines particularités difficiles à expliquer, et de sérieuses raisons de croire que les auteurs du crime dont je parle pourraient bien n'être pas des brigands de profession, mais des scélérats demeurant à Larisse même peut-être ou dans quelques-uns de nos faubourgs. La plupart de ces hommes avaient la figure enveloppée d'un mouchoir, ce qui me fait penser que c'était des gens connus et qui craignaient qu'on ne pût aisément les reconnaître; et s'ils ont tué ceux qu'ils ont dévalisés, c'était sans doute pour que leurs victimes ne pussent pas leur dénoncer. On a trouvé tout près de la maison attaquée par eux des cartouches appropriées à des fusils Martini, et c'est de ces fusils que sont armées les troupes Turques en garnison à Larisse; cependant, il y a beaucoup de Musulmans indigènes et d'Albanais qui possèdent de pareilles armes. On a constaté aussi qu'il y avait des traces des brigands qui partaient de Népal et aboutissaient aux portes de Larisse.

Tous ces faits expliquent suffisamment la terreur à laquelle sont en proie les habitants de Larisse: ils tremblent pour leur propre existence, quoiqu'abrités par les remparts de cette ville où plusieurs bataillons tiennent garnison. En conséquence, nul n'ose sortir de chez lui une heure après le coucher du soleil.

Depuis quelque temps, une centaine d'Albanais sans travail et sujets à caution, se trouvent réunis ici, on ne sait trop comment. D'où ils sont venus et dans quel but, c'est ce que personne ne saurait dire; et l'on a tout lieu de s'étonner que les autorités permettent que de pareilles gens séjournent ici: cette tolérance dénote le peu de souci qu'elles ont de la sécurité des habitants.

Il paraît assez probable que l'acte de brigandage commis à Népal l'ait été par quelques-uns des susdits Albanais, d'autant plus que le Soubachi ("Administrateur") de ce village est un Albanais de très-mauvaise conduite, que l'on avait accusé l'année dernière d'avoir des accointances avec les brigands, et de faire le métier de receleur.

L'année passée un négociant de Volo fut capturé par des brigands, et transporté par eux chez le Soubachi du village de Doxara, qui n'est autre que celui qui est actuellement Soubachi à Népal. Le négociant capturé trouva moyen de s'évader de la maison où on l'avait enfermé, et il dénonça le Soubachi, qui fut empoigné et emprisonné; mais, deux jours après, on le relâcha, et depuis lors le voilà installé à Népal en qualité de Soubachi.

Après l'assassinat de Karterouli, le Soubachi a été de nouveau arrêté mais de nouveau aussi, selon toute apparence, il sera, dans peu de jours, relaxé comme la première fois.

Cependant, le séjour des susdits Albanais dans notre ville est vraiment incompréhensible; non-seulement leur présence fait craindre, avec juste raison, qu'ils ne se livrent à des coups de main contre la vie et la fortune des habitants, mais je dois encore vous dire que la tolérance des autorités à leur égard m'autorise à penser que ce sont elles probablement qui les ont réunis ici, et en d'autres parties de la Thessalie, pour organiser un mouvement politique contre l'annexion de ces provinces à la Grèce. On ne saurait expliquer autrement leur concentration subite à Larisse, surtout après la mesure prise par Chefket Pacha de les renvoyer dans leurs foyers. Il serait peut-être bon que des représentations fussent adressées au Gouvernement Ottoman contre le séjour de ces gens sans aveu en Thessalie.

Pendant la dernière quinzaine, beaucoup de commis-voyageurs et des charretiers ont été successivement dévalisés par des bandits sur la grande route qui mène de Volo à Larisse au-dessous de l'endroit dit Pilaf-Tépé, où est établie un poste en vue de la sûreté des voyageurs. Il est bien probable que ces actes de brigandage ont été commis par des Hountouts ("irréguliers"), qui depuis quelque temps tiennent ce poste. Ces reîtres sont assez dans l'habitude de se déguiser en paysans pour se livrer à des actes de brigandage. On peut dire que cela est presque sûr si l'on songe que le poste en question n'est éloigné de l'endroit, où ont été commis les actes de brigandage, que de 5 minutes à peine, et qu'autrefois les soldats à qui l'on confiait ce poste ont souvent perpétré des crimes de cette nature.

Le fournisseur des troupes Turques qui se trouvent en Thessalie, avait cessé pendant vingt jours de fournir des vivres aux troupes, parce qu'on lui devait £ T. 160,000; mais hier il a recommencé ses fournitures. Toutefois durant la suspension des fournitures, l'autorité militaire avait contraint les habitants des différents villages à fournir à la cavalerie et aux autres corps tout ce qu'il fallait pour la nourriture des gens et des bêtes, et cela à titre gratuit, par cette raison que le Gouvernement maintenait tant de troupes en Thessalie uniquement pour garantir la sécurité des populations.

La semaine passée est parti pour Janina, le Gouverneur Militaire Général de l'Epire, de la Thessalie, et de la Macédoine, lequel est le Maréchal Hendast Pacha. Des considérations militaires l'ont engagé à faire ce voyage, dont il sera de retour dans trois semaines; le Férik Sélami Pacha a pris le commandement militaire en Thessalie pour le temps que durera l'absence du Maréchal.

Hier sont arrivés les hommes du bataillon dit Salis, licencié depuis longtemps, et composé de Musulmans Thessaliens; autrefois ce bataillon comptait 1,200 hommes, et formait la garde du Maréchal Mehmet Ali Pacha, lors de sa mission à Prisrend; après la mort de ce chef, sa garde a été taillée en pièces par les Albanais; 350 hommes seulement de cette garde ont pu échapper et viennent de rentrer dans leur foyers.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) PALAMIDIS.

No. 297.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 16, 1880.*

ALBANIAN Committee being under the impression that inaction may ultimately lead to overpower existence of their nationality, are preparing to commence hostilities in a few days. They propose occupying the line of the Turkish Boundary Commission, marked on Captain Sale's map north of Lake of Scutari.

8,000 rations are now sent daily to Albanian camp.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 298.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 17, 1880.*

I HAVE communicated your telegram of the 15th to M. Zancoff. He does not believe brigands referred to belong to the Principality, the villages which have been burnt being in Eastern Roumelia. He is in communication with the authorities of that province on the subject.

He added that some Turkish armed bands have recently entered the Principality and had a conflict with some Bulgarian troops, ten of whom had been killed.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 299.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17, 1 P.M.)

(No. 41. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 17, 1880.*

PRINCE ORLOFF is here on his way to Paris, and has seen the Emperor and the Chancellor. He is the bearer of conciliatory assurances, which tend to the re-establishment of the former friendly relations between Russia and Germany.

He says that General Ignatieff is to go on a special mission to China.

No. 300.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 17, 2·30 P.M.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May 17, 1880.*

YOUR telegram No. 97 of yesterday.

Austrian Minister for Foreign Affairs has personally no objection to the mode of proceeding that you propose, but wishes before answering to wait for the answer from Berlin upon his suggestion that your Lordship should prepare the draft of the note to be sent to the Porte.

No. 301.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 239. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Philippopoli, May 4, 1880.*

COLONEL BORTHWICK has supplied me confidentially with the inclosed rough notes taken from the diary which he kept during his recent visit to the district of Kirdjali, as member of a Commission appointed by Aleko Pasha to inquire into the extent of the outrages committed in that district by the militia and gymnasts of Eastern Roumelia.

The notes are accompanied by a map showing the villages actually visited by the Commission, the Report of which will be ready in about three weeks.

I have, &c.
(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 301.

Rough Notes from the Diary of Colonel Borthwick, Inspector of the Gendarmerie of Eastern Roumelia.

I STARTED from Philippopoli on the 2nd April, as a member of the second Commission appointed to visit the district of Kirdjali, for the purpose of reporting upon the recent events that had occurred in that part of the province.

We found on arriving at Haskeui that the previous Commission could supply us with little information likely to assist us in our inquiries. So much was this the case, that we subsequently discovered that two documents supplied to us by that Commission were unacknowledged by the villagers from whom they were supposed to emanate. The villagers even assured us, under their signatures, that they were ignorant of the claims and complaints therein mentioned.

The presence of a militia force to restore order in this district was a movement

reasonable enough, considering that for some time past certain unquiet spirits in the form of Mussulman intriguers have been persecuting the inhabitants, and inculcating the idea of non-recognition of the new Local Government. These irregular persons had collected taxes, and levied other impositions, partly by persuasion, partly by threat, from the otherwise quiet villagers. Some of the officers of the militia, however, who should have been the first to show an example of discipline and regular conduct, conducted themselves in a manner unhappily calculated to show the lack of all command, and to afford the possibility of every licence. The consequence has been that although its extent may have been somewhat exaggerated, yet the licence of those unformed soldiers has in too many instances surpassed the bounds that can afford any excuse. It is regrettable also that the employment of the illegally constituted gymnasts had recourse to by some of these officers, though it is remarkable that facts have testified that the line of march of these irregular bodies have left, by admission of the inhabitants, much lighter traces of plunder, and none of the grosser outrages laid at the door of the militia.

I must render justice to our President, M. Zlataroff, who conducted the investigation with a searching impartiality worthy of all praise.

In cases where deaths were reported by violence, the doctor attached to our Commission, myself and one of the Turkish members, proceeded to exhume the bodies, and verify the statements concerning the wounds by examination. Sometimes, by ignorance perhaps, a bullet hole had been described as a bayonet thrust; and even, on one occasion, a woman had been described as having had her feet and hands cut off, whereas it proved not to be the case. The doctor testified to a bayonet wound in the cheek, and in my own opinion the appearance of the throat indicated strangulation.

Although the bodies had been underground forty days and more, in only too many instances we were obliged to admit that the nature of the wounds corresponded with the description given in the complaints. It became too evident that many harmless people had been cruelly murdered, and innocent girls grossly violated.

At Dagh-Keui petitions were given complaining of thefts committed by the militia. Three men also had been beaten, these we examined; not only one showed marks of great violence. The body of a man who had been shot, outside the village, was exhumed by us, and it became evident that his wounds had been truthfully described to us, viz., a rifle shot from behind, also a bayonet thrust through the back, and protruding through the stomach. This man was a gipsy.

In the village of Boyajikeui we found the complaints much at variance with those contained in the petition given to the previous Commission. The people would not recognize the former petition, which was not signed, and assured us of this in writing. They complained that four women, and one girl of 20 had been violated, but owing to the great lapse of time since the occurrence, the doctor dispensed with examining into this case. One house in this village had been partly burnt, but the fault could hardly be laid on the militia, who were leaving at the moment of the conflagration, and the villagers affirmed that they turned back on perceiving it, and worked at extinguishing it.

At Ahatly one villager was shot, but the villagers informed us that he had attempted to leave at nightfall, regardless of the orders given by the militia that no one was to quit the village, and that probably he was shot down by a sentry who received no answer to his challenge. He was accompanied by another man, who returned unhurt, but died of fright some days afterwards.

At Dedeler, the villagers assert that on the night of the arrival of the militia, Ashie, aged 40 to 45, wife of Hadji Ali Oglou, was killed, and her feet and hands cut off. Such, at least, was the previous statement, which to us they described as cuts about the throat, arms skinned, &c. We exhumed the body, but could testify nothing of this description, though, to my thinking, the body bore traces of strangulation, and the doctor recognized a bayonet wound in the cheek.

The above woman's brother was also disinterred by us at the spot where he fell, some 15 minutes' walk outside the village.

There had been a slight skirmish there, and he fell, the head being pierced by a ball from the right back of the head, and coming out of the left eye.

At Hodjalar, besides numerous thefts with violence, nearly forty rapes were complained of. In the majority of cases the offences had been committed on married women; examination was therefore dispensed with; but out of eight cases alleged as having happened to maidens, six were established by medical inspection. This makes it probable that the other and less repugnant cases complained of were in the main true. One poor man in particular was eloquent in his distress. His wife had been beaten, and had died the next night. His three daughters had been dishonoured. The girls were aged respectively 18, 16, and 14, and our doctor corroborated the statements of rape with great violence.

In this village there was another case of a woman, *enceinte*, Safie, wife of Veli Oglou Dafer, having been beaten so that premature confinement and still-birth resulted. Several men were more or less cruelly beaten.

Ahmed Moustapha Oglou's son Ahmed, aged 18, received sword cuts in head and thrusts in body. He was thrown for dead under the carpenter's bench in his father's shop, but he was discovered and taken care of by his family. He now lies ill, but will be removed as soon as may be to Hasskeui, in order that he may identify (he states that he can) the officers that wounded him.

At Marnatché the bodies of two men were exhumed by us, and bore the marks described to us. Mustapha Oglou Mehmed, aged 55, and Rejebt Oglou Sherif, aged 65, —the first had several bayonet wounds in the back, one penetrating the chest. In the other case, the right half of the head was completely broken away, as though by violent blows, while the right arm and side were marked with blood.

At Tepe Alti, Suleiman Oglou Mustapha, aged 80, died of bayonet wounds—two or three in the chest, and one on the head. The doctor likewise verified these wounds.

At Kiralar, Osman Oglou Ahmed, aged 75, and Ishmaham, aged 80, wife of Mehmed Oglou, were killed; both had their throats cut, the woman's head being almost severed. We exhumed the bodies, and the doctor confirmed the nature of the wounds.

At Dovandjilar, several men and women were said to have been searched for money and beaten.

At Aledin twenty-eight houses, the whole village, in ruins. It is the larger quarter of Akbounar. The greater portion of the inhabitants fled on the approach of the militia. Complaints of twenty rapes, all married women. We exhumed the bodies of two women —Hafiz, aged 90, cut about the head; Ali Emine, aged 35, wife of Hussein Oglou Ali, killed in adjacent woods, cut about the head. The doctor confirmed both cases.

At Akbounar, Bekir Oglou Mehmed Ali states that he found dead, in her own house, Hafizé, aged 80, mother of Youssouf Jchouch; a stake of wood was thrust 12 inches into the private parts.

Cheri-Bashi, near Dovandjilar, was, according to the statement of the villagers of Nebe-Keui, visited by some 300 Christian Bashi-Bazouks (gymnasts), who requisitioned meat, food, &c., without paying for it (three sheep, three goats), but otherwise committed no other thefts nor beat any one.

At Alemdar, which the militia passed through and slept at on their return, Elfidjé, aged 70, widow of Mehmed Oglou Ali, was found dead in her house by the Mukhtar Halil. She received bayonet wounds in mouth and right shoulder and left of chest, her flesh was cut and torn from both arms, also her hair from her head.

These are statements that were made to the Commission, but the body was not seen by the doctor. The woman had been buried, by order of Assim Pasha, on the other side of the River Arda. She is reported to have been comparatively rich.

At Pandjik many women complained of violation; some cases of girls were confirmed by the doctor.

At Otaklu five women were violated, and one little girl of 8 to 10 years of age, Mariam, orphan of Bekir Agha.

(Signed) G. C. BORTHWICK.

No. 302.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 240.)

My Lord, *Philippopoli, May* 4, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the copy of a letter which the Greek Consul addressed on the 22nd March last to Aléko Pasha, on the subject of the persecution of the Greeks in this province by the Bulgarian Gymnastic Societies.

I have, &c.

(Signed) T. MICHELL.

Inclosure in No. 302.

M. A. Matalas to Aleko Pasha.

Philippopoli, le $\frac{10}{22}$ Mars, 1880.

Excellence,

LA lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur d'adresser tout d'abord à votre Excellence, vous démontrait assez les mesures que les Sociétés Gymnastiques ont prises pour l'extermination de la race Grecque dans cette province. Plus tard je n'ai pas manqué, dans une autre note, de vous confirmer ma précédente et d'appeler l'attention de votre Excellence sur le fanatisme, que les principaux organes des Sociétés Gymnastiques se font un devoir d'entretenir et d'attiser spécialement contre les Grecs de cette ville. Je vous faisais observer aussi, Excellence, que les auteurs de tant d'actions malveillantes s'autorisaient beaucoup de la tolérance et de l'impunité du Gouvernement pour l'exécution de leurs actes criminels contre les autres habitants de la province.

A la suite de mes deux lettres précitées, j'ai eu de plus l'honneur de vous répéter verbalement tout ce que je vous avais déjà écrit, et j'ai conclu de l'entretien que nous avons eu, que votre Excellence aussi n'admettrait pas l'existence des Sociétés Gymnastiques; qu'elle avait pris les mesures nécessaires pour leur dissolution, et qu'elle avait en outre recommandé au peuple Bulgare de rejeter les instigations et les conseils pernicieux que les prétendues Sociétés lui adressaient pour l'extermination des Grecs. Votre Excellence a fini en ajoutant que mes deux lettres ne resteraient pas du reste sans réponse.

Les déclarations de votre Excellence étaient formelles, et elles méritaient d'autant plus de considération, que l'expérience acquise pendant six ans dans ces pays m'a démontré plus d'une fois que le peuple de la Roumélie Orientale n'accepte jamais de servir d'instrument aux menées clandestines des démagogues toutes les fois que son Gouvernement s'empresse de le lui défendre, et qu'il constitue le peuple le plus docile, et le plus animé de l'Orient du désir de la justice et du respect de ses droits réciproques.

Aussi, me suis-je empressé avec de telles assurances de dissiper les craintes des Grecs menacés.

Malheureusement, les événements qui suivirent notre entretien n'ont pas été en rapport avec les espérances que j'en avais retirées.

Nous en avons la preuve évidente, et dans les offenses que les Grecs ont subies dans quelques villages qui ont été dénoncés à votre Excellence, et dans les conséquences que quelques uns voulaient tirer de la rixe survenue entre les élèves, rixe que les professeurs chargés de l'enseignement auraient dû calmer par la conciliation au lieu d'envenimer par leurs exhortations à la révolte, et dans l'arrivée à Stanimaka le 2 Mars de plusieurs membres des Sociétés Gymnastiques dans le but de voter pour les Conseillers-Généraux, et dans leurs attaques, enfin, contre le petit nombre de Grecs qui se trouvaient tout d'abord dans la salle du vote. La défense surtout faite aux Grecs de circuler dans les villages Bulgares sans être munis d'un permis délivré par le club Bulgare de Stanimaka, dont le chef est M. Bracaloff, le Caissier du canton, met le comble à tant de preuves. En outre, quoique l'issue des rixes survenues à Stanimaka en date du 2 Mars n'ait pas été en faveur des Gymnastes; attendu que les Grecs qui étaient dans les cafés, avertis du danger que couraient leurs compatriotes, se rendirent sur les lieux du conflit et sauvèrent les leurs en désarmant quelques-uns des Bulgares, et en faisant prendre la fuite au reste des agresseurs, elle ne constitue pas pour cela une base de la culpabilité des Grecs; d'autant plus qu'il est de notoriété publique que cette attaque injuste avait été commencée par les Bulgares. De plus, il n'est pas seulement nécessaire de chercher à trouver ceux qui ont commencé l'attaque les premiers, mais il est encore plus de savoir faire le choix de personnes connues et impartiales, chargées de ces recherches.

Il existe, Excellence, un principe admis partout, d'après lequel le Juge nommé pour instruire une affaire, quelqu'en soit la nature, ou pour rendre un Jugement, ne doit avoir en cause dans cette affaire aucun intérêt, soit direct soit indirect.

Ainsi, s'il faut admettre ce principe si juste pour le cas qui nous concerne, il n'existe pas de doute, Excellence, que l'instruction de l'incident de Stanimaka n'était pas de la compétence de M. Stambouloff, et qu'elle n'aurait pas dû être confiée à un monsieur qui au su de tout le monde est le Président des Sociétés Gymnastiques à Philippopoli, et par conséquent le chef de celle dont les membres attaquèrent les Sténimakiotes, et qui en un mot est l'instigateur le plus supposé des scènes en question, comme de tant d'autres conflits ayant trait à des haines de nationalités.

Du reste, je crois avoir déjà convaincu votre Excellence que M. Stambouloff et son confrère M. le Procureur ont prouvé dans l'instruction de la rixe survenue le 26 Février entre les élèves, qu'ils ne sont pas compétents pour de telles affaires, dans lesquelles l'impartialité et la justice que ces messieurs semblent ignorer sont indispensables.

Pendant le cours des enquêtes à Stanimaka les sieurs susmentionnés, loin d'être calmes et impartiaux dans leurs recherches, se permirent de prononcer toutes sortes de menaces contre les habitants. De plus, pour se venger paraît-il, des Grecs qui avaient eu le courage de désarmer leurs subordonnés, ils arrêtèrent sans examen préalable tous ceux qui leur furent désignés par les Gymnastes, et ils les expédièrent à Philippopoli pour y être emprisonnés.

Au nombre des personnes arrêtées se trouvèrent deux frères nommés Tchunta, tous deux sujets Hellènes, qui n'ont été envoyés ici en prison que pour avoir exigé de droit la présence durant leur examen du Drogman de leur Consulat respectif.

Mes deux sujets à leur arrivée ici m'ont été fort heureusement renvoyés par M. le Secrétaire-Général, qui a fait accompagner leur consignation au Consulat d'une demande très-raisonnable, me priant de vouloir bien les faire présenter aux autorités compétentes le jour où je recevrai une invitation à cet effet.

J'ai profité, Excellence, de la présence des frères Tchunta chez-moi pour les soumettre à un examen minutieux touchant l'incident du 2 Mars à Stanimaka, et j'ai pu constater que l'un d'eux avait été complétement absent à ce conflit, et que l'autre s'y est trouvé par hasard. Ce dernier a même été suffisamment battu par les Bulgares agresseurs, qui lui ont volé sa montre, et il n'a dû son salut qu'à l'arrivée de ses compatriotes accourus à son secours. Cependant, il m'a déclaré que comme les coups qu'il avait reçus n'avaient laissé sur lui aucune marque extérieure apparente, il avait refusé de dénoncer ces faits par excès d'amour-propre, et de peur d'encourir de la part de ses amis le blâme d'avoir été battu.

J'aime à espérer que l'exposé que je viens de faire à votre Excellence suffira pour la convaincre de la vérité et qu'il l'engagera à donner des ordres précis afin que de pareilles enquêtes partiales ne se renouvellent plus.

Votre Excellence ne refusera pas par conséquent de faire mettre en liberté ceux qui ont été si injustement emprisonnés et de procéder à la nomination de Juges ne faisant pas partie des Sociétés Gymnastiques, dont le but que leurs actes ont plus d'une fois déjà confirmé, n'a été jusqu'à ce jour et n'est encore aujourd'hui que d'exterminer les nations non-Bulgares de cette province pour tous les moyens soit légaux soit arbitraires.

Elle voudra bien aussi j'espère faire des recommendations urgentes à la Direction de l'Intérieur en l'engageant à prendre les mesures que réclament les circonstances pour assurer l'existence des Grecs qui habitent et qui parcourent la Roumélie Orientale.

Permettez-moi aussi, Excellence, de vous prier d'avouer que l'organisation en Roumélie Orientale de la gendarmerie, de la milice, et de la police, qui ne comprennent que des agents pris dans une seule nationalité en excluant les éléments des autres races, est tout-à-fait contraire à l'esprit et à la lettre du Statut Organique, et que non-seulement cette manière de procéder, réduit presque à la condition de l'esclavage les éléments des autres races déjà en butte aux vexations des Sociétés Gymnastiques, qui forment un second Gouvernement qui attirent la haine de la race prédominante; d'autant plus que cette dernière compose presque à elle seule toutes les branches Gouvernementales de la Roumélie Orientale; mais encore tout en rendant problématique et éphémère, le respect des droits des autres nationalités de la province, elle semble vouloir ramener l'état des choses qui existait avant la guerre, état qui concédait, il est vrai, la prédominance aux Turcs; mais dont ces derniers ne s'autorisaient jamais comme le font malheureusement aujourd'hui les Sociétés Gymnastiques pour anéantir les habitants non-Bulgares de cette province.

Bref, quoique je sois persuadé que votre Excellence a perdu tout doute au sujet de l'existence des Sociétés Gymnastiques depuis le jour surtout où elles vous ont présenté les armes a Hasskeui; néanmoins, pour donner à votre Excellence encore une preuve plus évidente et plus palpable de la vérité, je m'empresse de vous transmettre ci-joint une traduction du Règlement de la Société Gymnastique de Philippopoli, qui porte la date du 20 Janvier, 1880, et sur la teneur duquel j'appelle l'attention de votre Excellence, en vous priant d'en étudier surtout d'une manière toute particulière le premier paragraphe qui semble émaner d'une loi que la dite Société doit sans doute avoir votée; mais qui ne peut et ne doit être ni applicable ni même admissible.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Consul de Grèce,
(Signé) A. MATALAS.

No. 303.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 491.)
Therapia, May 7, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Salisbury's despatch to me No. 264 of the 22nd ultimo, I availed myself of an opportunity, the last time I saw the Sultan, to bring to His Majesty's notice the case of Yoghan Mustapha, a Mussulman of Marash, who had embraced Christianity, and who had been compelled in consequence to leave his native place. I reminded His Majesty of the distinct and formal promise that he had given me, that henceforward a Mohammedan, were he even an Ulema or a Mollah, who was a convert to any form of the Christian faith, would be free from interference and molestation. I represented to His Majesty that the Turkish authorities of Marash had obliged Yoghan Mustapha, who bore an excellent character, to leave his home and his family merely because he had become a Christian, and I begged His Majesty to give orders that he might be permitted to return to Marash, and receive proper protection.

The Sultan replied that he adhered firmly to the declaration that he had made, that henceforth no convert from Islamism to Christianity should be interfered with or molested; but this declaration, he added, could only refer to the Government and the authorities. There were parts of the Empire where the population was not only very fanatical, but frequently almost beyond the control of the local functionaries when their fanaticism was aroused. Such he believed to be the case at Marash. The public appearance of a converted Mussulman might lead to serious disorders, and even a massacre, or persecution of the Christians might ensue, for which he and his Government would be held responsible. Under these circumstances, it might be desirable that a convert from Islam should be removed for the time to some place where the population was less fanatical, and where the authorities had full power to protect him. His Majesty begged me to speak to his Ministers about Yoghan Mustapha, but not to say that I had brought the matter to his notice, as it was a very delicate one for him to deal with.

I have spoken to Sawas Pasha about this case, but his Excellency gave me almost the same answer as the Sultan.

I regret to say that Ahmet Fewfik Effendi, the Mollah who was condemned to death for correcting Dr. Koelle's translations, and was subsequently sent to Scio, is still in that island, and that the promises made to me by the Sultan and the Minister for Foreign Affairs that he should be allowed to return to Constantinople within two or three months, and should have the means of subsistence given to him and his family during his temporary exile, have not been kept, notwithstanding my frequent representations to His Majesty and Sawas Pasha on the subject. The Mollah has neither received the arrears of his pay, nor an allowance, and has been compelled, as have his wife and children, to live upon private charity.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

No. 304.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 492.)
Therapia, May 8, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch from Vice-Consul Blakeney, reporting the agitation which is being stimulated amongst the Albanians by Vessel Bey, apparently with the connivance of the Turkish authorities, with regard to the question of the new Greek frontier.

I have not failed to make serious representations to the Sublime Porte respecting the conduct of their officials in this matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 304.

Vice-Consul Blakeney to Sir A. H. Layard.

(Confidential.)
Prevesa, May 1, 1880.

Sir,

I THINK it my duty to acquaint your Excellency that, according to all accounts, Vessel Bey, the acknowledged leader of the Albanians of Margaritti, &c., appears to be actively engaged in creating a state of things quite opposed to the wishes of the European Powers, and I very much fear that he is really planning some demonstration which is to take effect when the International Frontier Commission makes its appearance. That Vessel Bey should be pursuing such a policy is nothing new nor surprising, for I have, from time to time, reported his proceedings to your Excellency. But that which astonishes people here is that the authorities seem to go hand in hand with him. For instance, his journey to Margaritti and Magaraki, as reported to your Excellency in my despatch of the 3rd April; his holding meetings at one or both those places, notwithstanding the presence there of the Mutessarif; his stay there several days after the return of the Mutessarif, and the meetings which took place in his house since his return from them, and in which, I am informed, the Mutessarif, the Cadi, and even Ali Pasha, the Military Commandant, were present, somehow justifies the impression that exists here, that the Turkish Government is doing its utmost to make the solution of the Greco-Turkish question as difficult as ever.

I here beg leave to add that something serious appears to be going on at Margaritti, for the new Mushir, Hindait Pasha, who came to Prevesa about three days ago, telegraphed on the 28th ultimo to Liva Ibrahim Pasha at Janina to take a squadron of Circassians and proceed to Margaritti, and the latter left Janina yesterday. Very early this morning the Mushir also left for Parga, bound, no doubt, for Margaritti; and as Vessel Bey also intended to proceed thither, they left together.

(Signed) C. A. BLAKENEY.

No. 305.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 59.)
Therapia, May 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inclose two Reports made by M. Lang, the Director-General of the Administration of the Indirect Taxes assigned by the Porte to the Galata bankers, upon the frauds committed in the perception of the taxes upon tobacco and salt. They furnish ample evidence of the fraudulent manner in which the resources of Turkey have hitherto been collected, to the great loss of the Imperial Treasury.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 305.

Administration des Six Contributions Indirectes.

Rapport sur le Tabac et Sel.

DES six Contributions Indirectes, celle qui donne le revenu le plus important est le tabac.

Les impôts sur cet article, nous concernant, sont:

1. Un droit de transit ("Mururiyé").
2. Un droit de consommation.
3. Un droit de patente sur les débits de tabac.

Droit de Transit.—Depuis le 7 Août, 1878, le droit de transit est de 5 piastres par ocque, mais tous les tabacs résultant de la production de l'Empire ne payent pas cette taxe. En vertu de Traités, les tabacs exportés à l'étranger en sont exemptés, et, par conséquent, le droit de transit ne se prélève que sur les tabacs consommés en Turquie.

Droit de Consommations.—La taxe du droit de consommation se perçoit au moyen de banderolles collées sur tout paquet de tabac mis en vente. Ces banderolles sont de cinq catégories, soit:

Sur les tabacs hachés—									£ T.
1re qualité	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45 l'ocque.
2e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37½ "
3e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 "
4e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	22½ "
5e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15 "
Sur les cigarettes—									
1re qualité	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	45 le mille.
2e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37½ "
3e "	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	30 "

Sur les tabacs a mâcher et à priser indigènes de toutes qualités, 15 p. l'ocque.

Depuis le 1er Mars, 1880, ces droits sont perçus en monnaie de bon aloi.

D'après les chiffres exacts de la consommation à Constantinople, du 1er Janvier au 31 Mars de cette année-ci, le droit de consommation se monte à 19½ p. par ocque, sans distinction de qualités. Dans les provinces, où la consommation des qualités supérieures est plus restreinte, la moyenne sera moindre et le rendement ne dépassera pas 16 p. par ocque. On peut donc établir que le droit de consommation pour tout l'Empire se chiffre par 17 p. par ocque.

Droit de Patente.—Le droit de patente sur les débits de tabac est de £ T. 1½ pour chacun. Le produit ne représente que 10 p. par ocque de tabac consommé.

Il en résulte que les impôts sur le tabac, nous concernant, rapportent 22½ p. par ocque de tabac consommé dans les provinces immédiates de l'Empire.

Consommation.—En France, la consommation du tabac s'élève à 30,000,000 kilog. (23,500,000 d'ocques) pour une population de 36,000,000, soit 261 drammes par tête.

En Roumanie, pays qui offre plus d'analogie avec la Turquie, la consommation légale est de 2,500,000 kilog. (2,000,000 d'ocques), pour une population de 4,500,000, soit 177 drammes par tête.

En prenant comme base de la consommation en Turquie les chiffres de la Roumanie, et en évaluant la population seulement à 18,000,000, nous constatons que l'impôt sera perçu sur une quantité de 8,000,000 d'ocques et produira, à raison de 22½ p. par ocque, un total de 178,000,000 p. de bon aloi, soit £ T. 1,660,000, brut. Il est bon de remarquer que ces chiffres ne sont pas établis d'après la consommation légale de la Roumanie où la contrebande se fait sur une grande échelle, à cause de la défectuosité de la loi du monopole.

Malheureusement les résultats obtenus jusqu'ici en Turquie, dans les recettes de l'impôt sur le tabac, ne répondent pas à de pareils calculs. En 1294 (1878-79), on a perçu des droits sur 5,800,000 ocques, mais alors le tabac n'était réellement frappé que d'une imposition de 5½ p. par ocque, au lieu de 22½ p., comme aujourd'hui, et les possessions immédiates de l'Empire comptaient 4,000,000 d'âmes de plus.

Malgré l'absence de chiffres précis, je suis convaincu que la quantité sur laquelle l'impôt a été payé, pendant l'année qui vient de finir, n'arrive pas au chiffre de 4,000,000 d'ocques, c'est-à-dire, à la moitié de ce qu'elle devrait être avec un Contrôle tant soit peu efficace.

Il ne peut y avoir deux opinions sur la cause de cet état de choses si préjudiciable au Trésor; et on ne pourra nier son évidence quand j'aurai dépeint la situation où nous avons trouvé cet impôt, au 1er Janvier passé.

On ne saurait être taxé d'exagération en avançant que la contrebande se partageait le marché avec la régie et peut-être même qu'elle le fournissait en majeure partie. Quelques faits viendront à l'appui de cette assertion.

Beyrouth, ville de 60,000 habitants, ne possédait pas de fabrique de tabac légal, et notre Contrôleur, à son arrivée dans cette ville, a eu toutes les peines du monde à trouver, pour son usage personnel, un paquet de tabac revêtu de la banderolle. Le droit de consommation ne rapportait rien et la contrebande régnait dans la province.

De *Samsoun*, notre Contrôleur écrit:

"En ce qui concerne l'énorme différence que présente la vente des banderolles dans les années 1294 et 1295, il faut mettre en première ligne la fermeture de quatre fabriques. Il n'en reste plus que deux et la vente est insignifiante, parce que les deux tiers de la population usent du tabac sans banderolle."

Aïvali, ville de 36,000 habitants, n'avait pas de fabrique de tabac, et la vente des banderolles était nulle.

Damas, avec une population de plus de 100,000 habitants, possède deux fabriques de tabac. Elles sont sur le point de fermer, vu qu'elles n'ont pu consommer la quantité de banderolles exigée par la loi, soit, la valeur de 120,000 piastres pour chacune ou 7,000 ocques de tabac.

De *Brousse*, notre Contrôleur écrit:

"La fraude est à l'ordre du jour et dans des proportions gigantesques. La population viole continuellement les prescriptions de la loi. A peine le quart des fumeurs de Brousse achète-t-il du tabac réglementaire, tous les autres se fournissent de chez les contrebandiers."

D'un autre district, notre Contrôleur écrit:

"La contrebande se pratique ici sur une vaste échelle: les Notables du pays, Agas du Medjliss, Chef de la Police, je dirai même, avec une certaine conviction, nos commis et nos koldjis, cédés par l'ancienne Administration, sont au nombre des associés. Le nommé, ..., ce Notable que je vous signale dans mon télégramme du 13, est le chef de la Société de Contrebande."

Tous les rapports qui nous parviennent sont unanimes: ils constatent l'existence au grand jour du Commerce de contrebande, sa prospérité, et l'impunité dont il jouit.

La Convention du $\frac{19}{31}$ Novembre dernier a, malheureusement, laissé sous les ordres de la Douane la police chargée de veiller aux intérêts des six Contributions Indirectes. Il était impossible de rien espérer d'une police dont l'inefficacité est suffisamment démontrée par les faits que je viens de citer: dès les premiers jours de notre fonctionnement nous avons prié le Gouvernement de modifier, dans son propre intérêt, cette clause de la Convention. La Sublime Porte a favorablement accueillie notre demande, mais jusqu'à présent la question est restée en suspens.

Cependant nous ne sommes pas restés inactifs: d'une manière indirecte nous avons essayé de lutter contre la contrebande. Je ne prétends pas que nous ayons fait des miracles, car nous ne possédions pas le pouvoir nécessaire, mais la saisie de 764 ocques de tabacs, dans la capitale, pendant les mois de Janvier et Fevrier, atteste un certain résultat. Aussi ce n'est que vers la fin du mois passé que nous avons pu installer notre propre personnel à Salonique, Smyrne, Trébizonde, Alep, en Crète, et en voici déjà les résultats.

De *Salonique* notre Contrôleur écrit, en date du 1er Avril:

"Les contrebandiers semblent avoir pris peur. Déjà on est venu me livrer des "havanes" (machines), et nous espérons arriver, par l'interrogatoire que nous faisons subir aux propriétaires, à la découverte d'une grande quantité de couteaux de contravention qui existent dans notre ville. On est venu aussi me demander si nous consentirions à recevoir les droits sur les tabacs non inscrits l'année passée: il paraît que les paysans effrayés les brûlent et les jettent à la mer."

De *Smyrne*, le Contrôleur nous écrit en date du $\frac{3}{15}$ Avril:

"Notre corps de surveillance a commencé à fonctionner et les saisies de tabac de contrebande se succèdent sans interruption."

De *Trébizonde*, notre Nazir nous télégraphie, le 6 courant:

"Les Inspecteurs qui viennent d'être envoyé à Platana nous avisent que certains cultivateurs, pour éviter de payer une amende, se proposent de détruire les tabacs qu'ils détiennent non inscrits—par suite de l'incapacité des Memours de l'enregistrement de de l'année passée."

D'*Alep*, en date du $\frac{5}{17}$ Avril, notre Contrôleur écrit:

"Indépendamment des petites quantités de tabacs que nous saisissons presque journellement, nous avons capturé hier dans une maison une havane, un conteur, et 160 ocques de tabac haché."

De la *Crète*, notre Mudir nous écrit en date du 16 Avril:

"Depuis l'installation de notre service, il y a peu de temps, nous avons déjà saisi 90 ocques de tabac de contrebande, la première fois, et 234 ocques tout dernièrement. Quant à l'intérieur de l'île, il est excessivement difficile d'agir efficacement contre la contrebande; nous tâcherons de faire pour le mieux."

Cependant nos agents rencontrent des grandes difficultés dans leur poursuite de la contrebande. Dans beaucoup de provinces, les autorités locales, au lieu de nous aider, refusent d'autoriser les perquisitions si nos agents ne déposent une garantie de dommages-intérêts, en cas d'insuccès de leurs recherches.

Un contrebandier est-il pris, nos agents ont toutes les peines d'obtenir une condamnation des Tribunaux. La lenteur, souvent calculée, de la procédure et le mauvais vouloir des autorités donneraient à penser, qu'à leurs yeux nos efforts tendent à un but autre que la défense de la loi et du Trésor public. Cette attitude indifférente et même hostile produit le plus mauvais effet: elle encourage les contrebandiers et décourage nos agents.

Une grande partie des abus qui pèsent sur "les tabacs" doit être imputés aux imperfections de la loi qui régit l'impôt et surtout aux dispositions relatives à la culture du tabac. Les auteurs de la loi avaient sagement prohibé toute plantation dont l'étendue serait moindre d'un demi-deumm, mais plus tard, un simple Arrêté du Gouvernement abolit

cette prescription et laissa la culture libre de toute restriction. Il en est résulté que de petites exploitations de quelques plantes seulement sont parsemés à travers le pays, ce qui rend la surveillance à peu près impossible et très-onéreuse. Je ne citerai qu'un exemple: dans le district de Brousse, sur 900 cultivateurs, 309 n'ont produit l'année passée, d'après les statistiques officielles, que de 5 à 25 ocques de tabac chacun.

En outre, les paysans ne sont pas tenus à déclarer leur culture, ainsi un grand nombre de petits cultivateurs échappent complétement à tout contrôle. Cette liberté illimitée est incompatible avec les intérêts du monopole et le remède se fait impérieusement sentir. Dans ce but, nous avons exposé à la Commission Financière les modifications qu'il importe d'introduire dans la loi actuelle: si ces modifications reçoivent la haute sanction de Sa Majesté Impériale, le fisc en tirera un grand avantage.

De ce qui précède, on ne saurait s'étonner que le rendement de l'impôt sur le tabac soit loin d'être ce qu'il devrait.

Pour obtenir un résultat normal il faut:

1. Que la police devienne efficace et à nous.

2. Que la Sublime Porte donne l'ordre aux autorités administratives et judiciaires de frapper promptement et sans pitié des peines édictées par la loi, toutes les contraventions à la loi, et de soutenir nos agents de surveillance de tout l'appui moral et matériel dont elles disposent.

3. De modifier, le plus vite possible, la loi dans le sens que nous avons indiqué, sens dans lequel l'honorable Commission de Finances a abondé.

Ces trois conditions remplies, je ne vois aucun obstacle qui puisse s'opposer à l'augmentation, dans une proportion notable, des revenus provenant des tabacs. Le Trésor appréciera l'importance qui s'attache pour lui à cette augmentation, car, je le répète, cette branche des revenus ne rapporte pas, aujourd'hui, la moitié de ce qu'on est raisonnablement en droit d'attendre.

Mais pour arriver à ce résultat enviable des efforts persévérants et suivis sont nécessaires. Il faut du temps pour extirper des abus aussi généralement répandus et aussi profondément enracinés. Il faut des châtiments exemplaires pour que les contrebandiers se décident à abandonner leur commerce illicite. Il faut surtout attendre la nouvelle récolte de tabac pour faire un recensement et un enregistrement plus consciencieux que par le passé, car ce sont les tabacs non inscrits, chez les paysans, qui ferment les dépôts d'approvisionnement des contrebandiers.

Dans le court espace de trois mois, nous n'avons pu que prendre des mesures préliminaires. Nous avons dû en partie recevoir, en partie créer un service qui comprend plus de 5,000 employés, répartis sur toute l'étendue de ce vaste Empire, et cela à la saison où les communications présentent des difficultés excessives. Les circonstances nous ont contraint à accepter, en grande partie, un personnel qui n'est pas de notre choix et qui répond peu à nos désirs.

C'est à peine si quelques-unes de nos Directions de l'intérieur ont pu compléter le personnel de leurs bureaux et prendre réception du service de nos prédécesseurs: lorsque ce travail intérieur sera accompli, alors seulement nous pourrons efficacement attaquer les abus extérieurs. Le fonctionnement régulier d'une Administration aussi répandue et aussi compliquée ne s'improvise pas en quelques jours; il découle d'améliorations graduellement réalisées et mûrement étudiées.

En pareille circonstance, la précipitation ne peut engendrer que le chaos, et c'est déjà beaucoup, je crois, que de pouvoir dire, à la fin du premier trimestre, que nous avons sondé les plaies et que nous sommes presque en mesure de les cicatriser.

Constantinople, le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Avril*, 1880.

Le monopole du sel vient en seconde ligne parmi les six Contributions Indirectes qui nous sont confiées. Tout le sel consommé dans les possessions immédiates de l'Empire est extrait par l'État moyennant une dépense de un à trois paras par ocque. Il est vendu au bénéfice du fisc des salines de Tripoli de Barbarie, à 17 paras, et des autres salines de l'Empire à 20 paras par ocque pour le sel marin, et à 30 paras pour le sel gemme.

Il est assez difficile de se former une idée exacte de la consommation du pays. D'après les comptes de 1294 (1878-79), on pourrait l'évaluer à 170,000,000 d'ocques, mais la vente de cette année a été exceptionnelle. En voici les raisons:—

1. Le sel, pendant cette année, se payait en caimé au pair que les acheteurs se procuraient au tiers de sa valeur nominale. Il en résultait que le sel ne coûtait en réalité, dans les salines, que 7 paras par ocque au lieu de 20, comme aujourd'hui. Ce prix modique a naturellement contribué à augmenter la consommation.

2. Des achats ont été faits, sur une très-grande échelle, avant la démonétisation du caimé.

Mais depuis 1294 (1878-79) la population des possessions immédiates de l'Empire a subi une diminution de 4,000,000 âmes, ce qui a dû nécessairement réduire la consommation.

Ce ne sera qu'après la clôture des comptes de l'Exercice 1295 (1879-80) que nous pourrons établir le chiffre de la consommation légale, au jour où notre Administration a commencé à fonctionner. Toutefois, il nous a été donné de constater un grand abaissement du revenu au préjudice de l'État. Dans toutes les villes avoisinant les salines, la consommation de la population est des plus minimes. Ainsi Aivali, ville de 36,000 habitants, n'a achetée, dans dix mois, pour son usage particulier, que 1,300 ocques! Et il y avait là un personnel du Gouvernement qui coûtait £ T. 1,000 par an.

A Mesurati, dans la Province de Tripoli de Barbarie, pour une population de 25,000 âmes, non compris les villages environnants, il n'a été vendu que 340 ocques de sel, dans le courant du mois de Janvier.

A Metelin, grâce à l'abondance de la contrebande, le prix du sel dans le commerce était inférieur au prix des salines.

Les employés des salines, mal rétribués, vendaient clandestinement du sel, et pendant l'époque de l'extraction, les ouvriers emportaient quotidiennement des provisions de sel pour leurs familles et leurs amis. Ce n'est pas l'introduction en contrebande des sels étrangers qui porte le plus grave préjudice au fisc, ce sont les abus que commettent ou que tolèrent les préposés et les surveillants de l'Administration.

De *Diarbékir* l'Inspecteur nous écrit:—

"Comme tous les employés sont habitués à acheter leurs emplois, lors de leur destitution ils allèguent de vains prétextes, et savent que, moyennant finances, ils sont à l'abri de toute responsabilité: aussi personne ne remplit consciencieusement son devoir."

D'*Erzéroum* on nous écrit:

"A l'occasion de la mise en adjudication de l'extraction du sel, la concurrence a été telle qu'on a vu les soumissionnaires s'engager à l'extraire et à le verser dans les dépôts des salines à raison de 25 paras et même de 15 paras par 100 ocques. Il s'est même présenté le cas où un des concurrents a pris l'engagement d'extraire et livrer au dépôt le sel à raison de 35 paras par 500 ocques. Quand on réfléchit qu'un ouvrier peut à peine dessécher, extraire, et transporter jusqu'au dépôt 400 ocques de sel par jour; que l'adjudicataire, qui perçoit à raison même de 25 paras par 100 ocques, touche 2½ piastres pour ces 400 ocques, tandis qu'il paye, pour le moins, 4 piastres la journée d'un ouvrier, on arrive naturellement à cette conclusion, que ce tour de force apparent ne peut s'exécuter qu'au moyen de transactions inavouées et inavouables. En effet, lors de la récolte du sel il se forme autour des lacs et des bassins une procession interminable de gens qui, moyennant une faible indemnité payée à l'adjudicataire, ont le droit de prendre telle quantité de sel qu'ils peuvent transporter. Sous prétexte de leur apporter leur pitance, les familles et les amis des ouvriers viennent continuellement et s'en retournent également chargés de sel. Les consommateurs, qui sont censés se pourvoir au dépôt, emportent le double de la quantité marquée dans le registre de vente, et ce moyennant des pourboires payés à l'adjudicataire et aux préposés des salines. Ces derniers ne briguent d'ailleurs les emplois dans les salines qu'en vue des bénéfices illicites qu'ils réalisent, en fermant les yeux sur les détournements de fortes quantités de sel qui, pour la plupart, n'ont pas été pesées et ne sont pas entrées dans le dépôt.

"De ce qui précède vous pouvez facilement conclure que la nomination des employés aux salines donne lieu, par l'enchaînement, à une spéculation immense au profit des meneurs les plus influents.

"La distribution des emplois dans les salines est ainsi devenue, en quelque sorte, une chose tarifée sur les bases suivantes:—

Pour être nommé—		£ T.
Koldji	on paye de ..	5 à 10
Sivas Koldji	„ ..	5 „ 10
Bekdji	„ ..	5 „ 10
Camardji	„ ..	12 „ 35
Kiafik	„ ..	15 „ 40
Amburdji	„ ..	10 „ 20
Memour	„ ..	50 „ 80
Mudir	„ ..	80 „ 160
Divers petits emplois	„ ..	8 „ 20

"Les contractants pour l'extraction du sel, pour être favorisés dans l'adjudication, offrent, selon le cas, de £ T. 50 à £ T. 300.

"Il est impossible qu'un employé, dans de pareilles conditions, s'applique à son service et fasse son devoir."

Cet état de choses est général. MM. Barker et Courtgis ont constaté des faits identiques dans les salines de Phocia, de Tripoli, de Barbarie, et de Koniah; on nous adresse également des Rapports qui concordent avec ceux que nous avons déjà cités.

Je dois mentionner encore une autre cause d'amoindrissement des revenus du sel. Sur tout le littoral de la Mer Noire le Gouvernement avait établi des dépôts pour la vente du sel, mais les approvisionnements de ces dépôts avaient été faits à des conditions si onéreuses que les dépôts vendaient le sel à raison de 30 à 36 paras l'oque. Ce taux exorbitant portait un grave préjudice à la population de ces parages, et réduisait forcément la consommation. Depuis plus d'une année, la vente des dépôts de l'Etat sur la Mer Noire a été presque nulle. La marchandise se grevait de frais, et les dépôts ne servaient qu'à maintenir la hausse des prix au bénéfice de commerçants hardis qui vendaient à un ou deux paras moins cher que le Gouvernement. Saisissant le moment favorable, nous avons réussi à assurer de nouveaux approvisionnements pour la Mer Noire à 23 paras l'oque, ce qui nous a permis de laisser le prix de vente jusqu'à 26 et même 25 paras, combinaison avantageuse pour le fisc comme pour la population.

Nombreuses sont les améliorations à introduire dans le fonctionnement de cette branche importante de revenus, mais l'éloignement d'un grand nombre des salines, l'absence ou le manque de voies de communications dans l'intérieur, enfin la difficulté de trouver des employés consciencieux qui consentent à résider dans les alentours des salines, endroits, généralement malsains, rendent les améliorations d'une exécution lente et difficile.

Néanmoins, nous les réaliserons: non-seulement nous parviendrons à faire bénéficier le fisc, mais nous allégerons, pour les populations éloignées des salines, sans des proportions notables, les charges de ce monopole.

Le Directeur-Général,
(Signé) LANG.

Le $\frac{18}{30}$ *Avril*, 1880.

No. 306.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 496.) *Constantinople, May* 11, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Lord Tenterden's telegram of the 24th ultimo, I have the honour to inclose a list furnished to me by the Dragomans, of cases pending with the Porte. In addition to those which are in the hands of the Dragomans for settlement the following, with which I am personally dealing, may be specially mentioned.

I was instructed by Lord Salisbury, long ago, to request the Porte to permit the Tigris and Euphrates Steam Navigation Company, represented by Messrs. Lynch, to increase the number of steamers it possesses upon those rivers, which is limited by Firman to two; and, at the same time, to press upon it the importance of opening the rivers of Mesopotamia to commerce. I have constantly represented the matter to the Sultan and his Ministers, and have urged that the monopoly granted to the Oman, a Turkish Company, which only serves to impede the development of trade, and of the resources of the country, should be abolished. However, I have been unable to persuade either His Majesty or the Porte to take the step I have advised. I have thought it more prudent not to address any further official application, for the present, on the subject to the Turkish Government, as it would certainly be again refused. I am waiting for a more favourable moment to deal with the matter.

On the 5th January last Lord Salisbury instructed me to endeavour to ascertain whether an arrangement could be accepted by the Sultan's Ministers by which Commanders of His Majesty's ships in the Persian Gulf should have authority to pursue, and capture, piratical vessels within the three-mile limit on the Arabian mainland north of Odied. Knowing the extreme susceptibility of the Porte on matters of this kind, I thought it better not to make any formal communication on this subject until I had privately ascertained the views of the Prime Minister and Sawas Pasha with regard to it. I suggested to the latter that it would be wise for the Porte itself to make the proposal I was authorized to submit to it by Her Majesty's Government. It would thus avoid being accused of having yielded to a demand on the part of England, which compromised its national rights. I hinted, at the same time, that unless some such arrangement as that proposed by Her Majesty's Government were come to, they would be compelled to take effective measures, without perhaps too much respect for those rights, to put down the pirates, who, in consequence of the neglect of the Turkish authorities, were now again showing themselves in the Persian Gulf, and were becoming a most serious danger to British shipping and trade. Sawas Pasha entertained my suggestion favourably, as he informs me, did the Prime Minister. It has been submitted to the Council of Ministers, but although I have been incessantly pressing for an answer, I have not yet received one.

It is scarcely necessary to refer to the innumerable notes, founded upon Consular Reports, that I have addressed to the Porte relative to acts of injustice, oppression, and ill-treatments to which Christians and Mussulmans have been subjected by the Turkish authorities, or by local chiefs, in the European and Asiatic provinces of the Empire. To some of these communications I have received no answer. The statements which they contained have been in some instances met by a simple denial, furnished by the functionaries who are accused. In very few cases, if in any, has redress been given, although there is no doubt that frequently good has been done by showing the Porte and the Turkish authorities, that a vigilant watch is being kept by our Consular officers upon the proceedings of local functionaries.

The Defterdar of Angora, whose removal I demanded, and was promised, on account of his ill-treatment of a British subject, Mr. Binns, and the insulting language he publicly held with respect to the British Government and nation, still remains at his post. The Porte, although it had undertaken to name a Delegate to meet Colonel Wilson, at Angora, to inquire into and report upon the accusation against this functionary failed to do so. His dismissal ought to be insisted upon by Her Majesty's Government.

I asked, in a note dated the 22nd April last, for the appointment of an International Commission to examine into the question of the renewal of the Collas Lighthouse Concession. No answer has yet been returned to that note, and the Porte seems determined to evade the engagement entered into with Her Majesty's Government on the 21st April, 1863, and to maintain the renewal of the Concession to M. Collas without the preliminary inquiry.

A similar fate has attended the note I addressed to the Porte on the 16th April last, asking for the nomination of an International Commission to examine the Concession about to be given to M. Michel for the construction of quays in the Golden Horn, in order that an agreement might be come to with the British and other Governments as to the dues to be paid by foreign shipping, and as to other matters. In this question, as in that of the Collas Lighthouse Concession, I am receiving the support of several of the Representatives of foreign Powers.

The collective note addressed by the Representatives of the Powers to the Porte on the 19th February last, asking for a Commission to inquire into the management of the safety-boat and floating-light services in the Black Sea, almost entirely maintained by dues upon foreign shipping, the great part of which are paid by British vessels, has also remained without a reply.

The Constitution to be conceded to the Protestants of Turkey, promised to me over and over again by the Sultan and his Ministers, is still unsettled. The conduct of the Porte in this matter has been without excuse. It has hitherto contrived to evade its distinct pledge to grant to the Protestants the rights and privileges that are enjoyed by the other religious communities in the Empire. The Constitution which was offered to them a short time ago was unacceptable. I have now had one prepared by Dragoman Marinich, in communication with their head, or "Vakil," which I am about to submit to my German collegue, who has warmly supported me in this matter, and upon the adoption of which, if he approves of it, we shall insist. This question has been in discussion with the Porte during the three years that I have been here.

The Sultan still apparently declines to issue the Firman confirming the Convention entered into between Her Majesty's Government and the Khedive with respect to the Somali Coast, although I have been incessantly pressing the matter at the Porte, and have, on several occasions, spoken to His Majesty himself on the subject. I have stated, in a despatch to Lord Salisbury (No. 237 of the 25th February) the reasons which probably induce His Majesty to withhold his approval.

I will only refer to my constant remonstrances to the Sultan and his Ministers with regard to the non-fulfilment of the pledges given by them as to the introduction of reforms in Asiatic Turkey, and especially those contained in Safvet Pasha's note of the 8th October, 1878. Suffice it to say that none of those reforms have as yet been loyally carried out.

No answer has yet been returned by the Porte to the protests addressed to it by myself, and most of my colleagues, with respect to the reduction of the value of the "medjidié," which the Turkish Customs still insist upon receiving at 19 piastres instead of 20, in violation of a Treaty engagement.

The question of the Sultan's claim to farms in Cyprus is still unsettled, and remains in a most unsatisfactory state.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 306.

Statement of Pending Claims and Cases.

Pending Claims.

Nature of the Claim.	*Present State of the Claim.*
1. CLAIM of the Varna Railway Company for 140,000*l.*, being the yearly guarantee for 1874-75, and admitted by the Ottoman Government previous to the late war.	THE Sublime Porte still refuses payment, on the ground that this claim falls under the stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin. Her Majesty's Embassy is taking steps to combat the arguments of the Porte. (Note to Porte, 1st May, 1880.)
2. Stambouli claim on the Treasury of Damascus for certain sums advanced, and admitted by a special Commission of the Government.	By order of the Sublime Porte Midhat Pasha has come to an understanding with the Ambassador, during his Excellency's stay in Syria. The claim has been reduced to 30,000*l.*, to be paid in three instalments. The Council of Ministers has not been able as yet to sanction this arrangement on account of political matters. 22nd March.—The Porte was informed that if the claim were not settled it would be referred to Her Majesty's Government.
3. Mrs. Baltazzi's claim upon the Ottoman Government for 23,000*l.*, *circâ*, with the interest. (1880.)	The Government has acknowledged this debt, and has given her "serghis," which have not yet been paid. With regard to the interest no decision has been arrived at by the "Malieh." (Note from Sublime Porte, 6th April, 1880.)
4. Guarracino Brothers' claim on the Ottoman Government for works executed on the Scutari-Ismidt Railway. (About 1870.)	The Government appealed against the award given by the Umpire, allowing Messrs. Guarracino Brothers over 800,000 fr. besides the interest. The Council of State, called upon to give Judgment in this appeal, has given no legal decision, and Her Majesty's Embassy insists upon the award of the Umpire being carried out, or upon the appointment of a Technical Commission. A fresh note on the subject has been recently addressed to the Porte.
5. M. Pietro Tedeschi's claim on the "Malieh" for value of materials supplied to the Imperial buildings. (1878.)	In accordance with instructions from the Foreign Office (No. 129 of 1880), a note was addressed, 1st May, to the Sublime Porte pressing this claim. The Government has given him an acknowledgment, but has not yet paid the amount due, alleging as the reason their financial embarrassments.
6. Messrs. Watts and Milburn's claim for 8,000*l.*, value of their Lighter No. 7, burnt by the Turkish irregular troops in the Danube, and of the cargo of maize therein consumed by the Ottoman soldiers in the late Turco-Russian war.	18th March, 1880.—The Porte refused to make any arrangement for settling the claim by giving him land instead of money. The Embassy insists upon the claim being decided administratively, and the Sublime Porte pretends that it must be referred to the Judgment of the Maritime Court as an ordinary claim. As there exist precedents of such cases being settled administratively, the Embassy now insists upon that course being pursued in the present instance. In pursuance of instructions from the Foreign Office (No. 127 of 1880), a note was addressed, 18th March, 1880, to Porte, pressing for representation of Her Majesty's Embassy on the subject.

Nature of the Claim.	*Present State of the Claim.*
7. The late Mr. Jenkins supplied coal for the use of the Ismidt Railway, the amount due for which is being claimed from the Ministry of Public Works by the liquidator of his estates. (1879).	The Ministry of Public Works has furnished the Embassy with an assignment upon the Ministry of War, which has not been paid in consequence of the financial embarrassments of the Treasury.
8. Two claims of M. Saverio Caleya, amounting to over 50,000 Turkish liras, against the Civil List, for materials supplied for the construction of palaces and other Imperial buildings. (1871.)	The Civil List Department refused to acknowledge his claim on the plea that no record had been kept of them. M. Caleya is about to bring an action against the Government. (Note from Sublime Porte, No 12 of the 29th January, 1880.)
9. M. Portelli's claim for indemnity for his pharmacy, plundered at Sulina by the crew of a Turkish man-of-war during the late war.	The Sublime Porte refuses to indemnify him on the ground that his statements are not correct. The claimant will have to prove his claim.
10. Mr. Whittal claims the restitution of about 400 liras advanced by him to the authorities at Salonica, the value of a plot of ground situated on the quay, which has not been constructed as agreed upon.	The Porte pretends that they cannot entertain this claim, showing that Mr. Whittal should apply to the authorities at Salonica. The "dossier" of this affair was forwarded to the Foreign Office some time ago.
11. Many English subjects are holders of acknowledgments issued by the Damascus Treasury, and known as Damascus "serghis," the payment of which they claim.	Consul-General Blunt wrote (No 63, 22nd April) that, if Mr. Whittal would send certain documents, the claim would be settled. The Government has promised in many instances to provide means of meeting these claims, but nothing has as yet been done on account of the financial situation.
12. M. Mussuri's claim for over 4,000 liras, value of 200,000 okes of flour supplied by him to the Ottoman troops in Epirus. (1879.)	A note having been addressed to the Sublime Porte in obedience to the instructions contained in Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 66 of the 27th January last, a *note verbale* was received in reply (28th February) stating that a general measure was about to be adopted for the settlement of this claim. Although it was agreed between him and the military authorities that the money should be paid at once, with the produce of the tithes on the olives at Volo, the claim has not been settled. M. Mussuri has lately purchased from the Ottoman Government a farm, and demanded that the amount due to him should be deducted from the price of the farm. The Government refuses to accept this arrangement. Her Majesty's Embassy is actively supporting M. Mussuri's claim, and addressed a note to the Sublime Porte (30th April last) on the subject.
13. Sir Peter Tait's claim for several thousand liras, in accordance with a sentence given in his favour by the Tidjaret (Commercial) Court.*	The Ministry of Marine against whom Judgment is given, has declared its willingness to pay as soon as the Finance Ministry furnishes them with the necessary funds. (To Sublime Porte, the 9th March, 1880.)

* *Mr. Alischan to Sir A. H. Layard.*

Constantinople, May 3, 1880.

Sir,

With reference to Sir Peter Tait's claim I have the honour to submit to your Excellency the following:—

Sir Peter Tait, a British subject, has claims on three Departments of the Turkish Government.

He has supplied the Admiralty with flannel and bed-covers for the amount of about £T. 7,000.

The Admiralty refused the payment of this amount. Sir Peter Tait brought an action against the Admiralty.

The Turkish Court of the Tidjaret gave a verdict for Sir Peter Tait.

The Admiralty appealed against the Judgment of the Turkish Court.

Nature of the Claim.	*Present State of the Claim.*
14. Messrs. Pool and Co.'s claim for value of clothing supplied to the late Sultan Murad, amounting to about 3871. 6s. 6d. (1874).	The Ministry for Foreign Affairs presented a Report to the Prime Minister, showing the necessity of satisfying this demand. No decision has as yet been given by the Council of Ministers.
15. Mr. Reyner's claim for value of cloth supplied to the Ministry of War.	Government has acknowledged the debt, but alleged financial embarrassment as reason for non-payment. 13th March (*note verbale* No. 29), the Porte declined to settle the question by the paying in Havalis ("bonds on provincial revenue").
16. Messrs. Cuppa Brothers' claim for over 90,000 liras for cloth and meat supplied to the Ottoman army. (1880.)	The Prime Minister has stated that this and similar claims shall be submitted to a special Commission, which shall assign so much per cent. per annum to the various creditors, payable out of 1,000,000 liras annually assigned in the Budget for the payment of such claims.
17. Claim, known as the Dingwall Estate case, for property usurped by a certain Bisharra Hawes.	A very strong memorandum was addressed to the Porte on this subject, but no answer has yet been received. (*Note verbale* to the Porte No. 53 on the 1st March, 1880, also a memorandum on the 1st May, 1880.)
18. Biaggio Infanti claims from the Ministry of War the amount due to him, the value of a cargo of olives supplied for the use of the Ottoman army. (1880.)	Upon the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy, Mr. Infanti has already received the greater part of his claim.
19. Georgio Spiteri's claim for one Turkish lira per day, on account of damages caused to him by the police authorities, who closed his shop, and forced him to exercise his profession of money-changer under new regulations. (1879.)	Her Majesty's Embassy has addressed two notes to the Porte supporting Mr. Spiteri's claim, but no satisfactory answer has yet been received. It must be remarked that Mr. Spiteri has suffered the consequences of a measure adopted with respect to all money-changers without exception.
20. Mr. Isaac Eskinazi, purchaser of certain tithes in the Vilayet of Aidin, brought an action against the Ottoman subject Athanase, and wishes to appeal to the Commercial Court at Constantinople.	The necessary steps have been taken by Her Majesty's Embassy with a view to obtain justice, and the Sublime Porte has replied. (*Note verbale* No. 39 of the 29th March, 1880, that when the case is brought before the Cour de Cassation it shall be tried.)
21. Mr. Vedova, who has established a line of steamers between Smyrna and Adalia, claims the restitution of the extra light dues he has been compelled to pay. (1879.)	The Embassy has addressed a note (20th December, 1879) to the Porte on the subject, which has as yet been unanswered, but it is believed that a favourable reply is forthcoming.

A verdict was for the second time given for Sir Peter Tait, and still the Admiralty refuses to pay the above amount.

The Topkane (Artillery Department) owes to Sir Peter Tait the sum of about 300,000 piasters in medjidié, in virtue of serghis ("order for payment") since May 1879, for lead supplied. Hardly a tenth part of this sum has been emashed.

The Admiralty has itself informed me that Sir Peter Tait, in supplying the goods, underbid other merchants. The fact that he has not been paid has apparently rendered him open to serious actions by his creditors, because he is not able to pay them.

For the debt due by the Admiralty there is a Judgment by the competent Turkish Tribunal, which has been confirmed by appeal, and which is now final.

For the debt due by the Artillery Department there are serghis, or acknowledgments of the debt.

For the debt due by the Serasker'at is on the same ground exactly as that of the Admiralty.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALISCHAN.

Pending Cases.

Nature of the Case.	*Present State of the Case.*
1. Mr. Th. Lloyd Eastlake, of London, applied many years ago for the Concession of a copper mine near Buyukdéré (Upper Bosphorus). (1872.)	The Council of State and the Administration of Mines have admitted Mr. Eastlake's rights. The War and Artillery Departments opposed the granting of the Concession, alleging strategical considerations.
2. Mr. John Henry Holcomb Read, of London, obtained some years ago the Concession of the copper mine at Sari Yeri. He has lately applied for an extension of the limits and time of his Concession. (1871.)	The Mine Administration has recognized Mr. Read's rights to such extension; the War and Artillery Departments opposed his demand, alleging strategical considerations; Her Majesty's Embassy has addressed a fresh note asking for the appointment of a Mixed Military Commission to reconsider the matter, but no answer has as yet been received. (To Sublime Porte, *note verbale* No. 8 of the 12th January.)
3. Firman demanded by the Eastern Telegraph Company, which has laid a cable between Constantinople and Salonica, and has established lines in Crete. (1878.)	The Council of State has given its Report approving the demand, but the Council of Ministers has not yet given its sanction and sent the papers to the Sultan for His Majesty's "Iradé." Strong representations have been made recently to the Porte.
4. Messrs. Heywood, Niven, and Co., owners of a steam flour mill at Aïvan Serai, have requested from the Government authorization to work lighters and a tug. (1879.)	The Council of Ministers has not yet decided the matter, but seems to be unfavourable to Messrs. Heywood's request.
5. Bill of the Parliament on cattle disease. (1879.)	This and other various cases are before the Council of Ministers. Frequent representations have been and are being made for their final settlement.
6. Smyrna Quay.	Referred to Mr. St. John, First Secretary of Her Majesty's Embassy, who will proceed to Smyrna with the Porte's Delegate to deal with the question.
7. Mr. Hanna Misk claims the right of taking possession of the village of Riac (Syria). He has based his right upon several Judgments and official documents.	Her Majesty's Embassy represented this case to the Porte. The Vali of Syria and the Ministry of Finance have been directed to report upon the matter; their information has not yet reached the Porte.
8. Mr. Carter claims a lot of ground purchased by him at Busrah. (1878.)	A full memorandum has been addressed to the Porte on the subject, and the Department of the "Evkaf" has been urged to take the matter into serious consideration. The document produced by Mr. Carter not being considered sufficient proof, the local authorities have been directed to report to the Evkaf.
9. Request presented by the Church Missionary Society at Jerusalem to obtain authority to build at Naplous some school rooms and a place to serve as a meeting-house for divine service. (1879.)	The matter has been referred to the Council of State, and Her Majesty's Embassy's Dragoman is daily pressing for its settlement. The Council of State has asked for certain information, and is awaiting the reply to their telegram before deciding the question. (Acting Consul-General Dickson, No. 31, the 23rd April, 1880.)
10. In consequence of an action brought before Her Majesty's Consulate-General by M. Perdicari, Russian subject, against Mr. Constantin Cangellari, English Vice-Consul at Guemlek, temporarily suspended,	Her Majesty's Embassy gave its support to Mr. Perdicari, in order to secure the recovery of large amounts advanced by Messrs. Hanson, English subjects, to Mr. Perdicari, for working the mine in dispute.

Nature of the Case.

Present State of the Case.

a sentence was issued in favour of the former recognizing him as co-associate for the third of the chrome mine, discovered at Carly Yeri, in the Vilayet of Broussa.

The Government declined to insert the name of Mr. Perdicari in the Firman of Concession for the said mine, which was issued in the name of Spiridion Canghellary, Italian subject, father of Constantin Canghellary. Her Majesty's Embassy has presented a memorandum making strong representations against the unfair decision given at the Council of State, and requesting that the Firman should be renewed in the name of Perdicari and Constantin Canghellary. The matter has been reconsidered, and steps have been taken also to induce the Council of State to take into its serious consideration the proposals conveyed in the note of Her Majesty's Embassy. (Note to the Porte, No. 43, of the 23rd February, 1880.)

11. Mr. Gilbertson, Sen., discovered several chrome mines in the Vilayet of Broussa, but was not allowed to work them on the ground that they were situated within the limits of other Concessions. (1877.)

Upon the representations of Her Majesty's Embassy the Administration of Mines has of late reconsidered the matter, and having decided to grant Mr. Gilbertson's further proposals, has furnished him with letters to the Vali of Broussa, it is hoped that this long-standing matter will be soon settled in a satisfactory manner.

12. Messrs. Charles Hanson and Co.'s Boracite case. Claim of mine *versus* M. Demazur, French subject. (1876.)

This case has been duly considered at the Department of Mines, and a Report drawn up, proposing to divide the boracite mine in question, with a view to satisfy both parties. This Report has been lately submitted for approval to the Council of State. (Note to Sublime Porte, No. 35, of the 10th February, 1880.)

13. Mrs. Parry, English subject, has complained that a large part of her farm at the village of Petinchori has been usurped by the villagers, and demands redress. (1879.)

The Embassy represented the case to the proper quarter, and upon orders issued by the Porte, the Prefecture decided to send a Mixed Commission to the spot to investigate the matter, and report upon it. The necessary steps will be taken for supporting the rights of the petitioner. (Note to Porte, No. 111, of the 3rd May, 1880.)

14. Her Majesty's Consul at Aleppo forwarded, some time ago, the deeds issued by the local Court, respecting the real property of the Consulate in that place. (1879.)

Her Majesty's Embassy has applied to the Evkaf and other competent Departments for settling the matter, but the deeds not being in good order, were returned to Mr. Henderson to be drawn up in accordance with the law of the Chéri.

15. Nicholas Grapsa complained that the authorities are insisting upon closing his wine-shop at Stamboul, on the ground that its being open is contrary to the Regulations in force. (1875.)

Her Majesty's Embassy has addressed a note to the Porte, stating that the reasons given by the police are groundless. (Note to Porte, No. 323, of the 10th December, 1879.)

Printed cottons.

This is an illegal duty levied on printed cottons in defiance of Treaties, and of repeated remonstrances on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy to the Porte, to which no reply is made.

Agiouri case.

This case has been pending for ten years, during which it was frequently brought to the notice of the Turkish Government.

The circumstances are as follows:—

Nature of the Case.

Present State of the Case.

Various Manchester merchants supplied goods to Agiouri in Manchester, the partner of the defendants Wekel and Houri, of Aleppo. When these had received several thousand pounds' worth of goods, Agiouri became bankrupt, and the defendants fraudulently retained the goods, denying the partnership with Agiouri.

The action of the Manchester merchants is for the recovery of the value of the goods with interest and costs. In England the defendants would have been condemned in a week and sent to prison, but being wealthy men, they were able for ten years to prevent sentence being given. Some months ago, however, by dint of perseverance on the part of Her Majesty's Embassy, a Judgment was at length obtained to the effect that Wekil and Houri were responsible for the debt of their partner; but the defendants, by various means have prevented, and still prevent, an order being issued for its execution.

In this case the impecuniosity of the Turkish Government cannot be pleaded in extenuation of a denial of justice. It is an instance of the corrupt practices of Turkish Tribunals, for which the Turkish Government has rendered itself responsible.

Sir,

Constantinople, May 3, 1880.

THIS claim has not yet been settled, although an Imperial Irade, ordering its settlement, was issued in July 1874.

I beg, in as few words as possible, to give a short statement of the case:—

The boats of the Azizié (now Malssoussé) Administration, belong to the Sultan. These boats ply between Cadikeui, the Princes Islands, and St. Stefano.

The late Sultan Abdul Aziz, seeing that this Administration could never succeed under Turkish management, gave, in the year 1872 (during the Grand Vizierate of his Highness Mahmoud Nedim Pasha), to the late Boghos Bey Missirli, a rich Armenian banker, and a Turkish subject, the Concession of these steamers for a term of twenty years, with power to form a Company to carry out such Concession.

Boghos Bey applied to European capitalists, and admitted as co-concessionnaires several European bankers and merchants, amongst them Mr. H. J. Hanson.

Boghos Bey, and his co-concessionnaires, acting in virtue of the Firman, took over the boats and material of the Azizié Company, and disbursed the necessary sums to work the same.

This management lasted about a year, and in the interval steps were taken to form a Company, with sufficient capital to work the lines efficiently.

Boghos Bey died suddenly in May 1873, and in July 1873 the Admiralty sent officers to the premises of the Company, who turned every body out, took away the books and cash, took possession of the steamers, and thus arbitrarily put an end to the Administration of the Company, at that time under the management of the representatives of the succession of Boghos Bey, Mr. Hanson, and Mr. Caporal, who had already laid out collectively about £T. 100,000.

These gentlemen filed formal protests, and that on the part of Mr. H. J. Hanson was addressed to his Excellency Sir Henry Elliot, Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador.

It was then that the Minister of Marine formally promised Sir Henry Elliot that an equitable settlement of the matter should be made. This promise was repeated by the Grand Vizier and other Ministers on various occasions.

The late Ahmed Pasha, then Minister of Marine, told me that the Government would deal in this matter with the succession of Boghos Bey only, as the Firman was given to

him. I pointed out that the Porte had recognized Messrs. Hanson, Caporal, and others as co-concessionnaires.

The Ministry of Marine, having decided that the management of the Azizié Company by the concessionnaires should be considered as having been for the account of the Admiralty, invited the succession of Boghos Bey to produce the accounts, and promised to pay for any balance for which they might be creditors.

A Commission was instituted for this purpose; the books of the Company were thoroughly examined, and it was shown that the concessionnaires had to receive about 100,000 Turkish liras.

The Admiralty, however, insisted upon the concessionnaires foregoing a certain portion of the sum due, and, as the succession of Boghos Bey felt that delay would be prejudicial, it was finally arranged that the Admiralty should pay £ T. 79,000 in full settlement of all claims.

On this being referred to the Council of Ministers, the Grand Vizier (Mehemed Ruchdi Pasha Shirvance) was on the point of obtaining the necessary Iradé authorizing the payment of this sum when he was replaced by Hussein Avni Pasha.

His Highness Hussein Avni Pasha, after considerable negotiation, arbitrarily compelled the succession to accept £ T. 50,000, and an Imperial Iradé, dated the 11th July, 1874, was issued, ordering the payment of this amount in settlement of all claims of Boghos Bey's succession upon the Admiralty.

The amount of £ T. 50,000 was scarcely more than sufficient to pay Messrs. Chas. S. Hanson and Co.'s own outlay and the claims of several British merchants and others who were creditors of the Administration of the Company under Boghos Bey in account current, when the Admiralty forcibly and suddenly took charge of the steamer, in July 1873, leaving little or nothing for the succession.

A delegation was given on the Treasury by the succession of Boghos Bey to Messrs. Hanson, for £ T. 30,000 odd, on account of the £ T. 50,000, but it was only after very considerable delay and the intervention of the British Embassy, that £ T. 25,000 were encashed by Messrs. Hanson. It has been impossible to encash anything further, the Admiralty having set up a claim to the effect that certain sums for coals, &c., supposed to be due from the Company, had not been included in the general settlement.

The succession denies the correctness of this statement alleging that not only had everything been included in the general accounts, but that they had submitted to the enormous deduction of £ T. 50,000, as above stated, in order that there might be a complete and final settlement, and on the distinct promise that the £ T. 50,000 should be paid in cash at once.

In consequence of this injustice, which the late Ahmed Pasha himself on several occasions admitted to me, the succession of Boghos Bey has been unable to meet its engagements, and Messrs. Hanson and Co. and other British subjects have been greatly prejudiced.

I have the honour to add that, at your Excellency's request, a Commission, composed of several members of the Ottoman Ministry of Foreign Affaires, was once appointed to examine the pending English case, and this case was going to have its turn, when the Constitution was proclaimed, in March 1876, and the Porte on the plea that, according to this new Constitution, no extra Judicial Commission could be considered as legal, dismissed the Commission and sent the case before the Commercial Court where it still remains in abeyance. No doubt, the intention of the Porte is to gain time and avoid a decision for the heirs of Boghos Bey and their co-concessionnaires.

The compromise for £ T. 50,000 confirmed by Imperial Iradé is good or bad? If good, as its object was to put an end to all disputes between the parties, and the succession abandoned so large a portion of their claim in order to secure a definite and prompt settlement, the balance of the £ T. 50,000 with interest, ought to be paid at once. If bad, the accounts ought to be revised *ab initio*, and indemnity should be paid to the concessionnaires for the arbitrary withdrawal of the Concession.

It seems evident that the Government cannot fairly maintain the comprise and yet claim a large deduction for supposed errors in the accounts, for if the settlement be erroneous, as the concessionnaires are willing to have a revision, this ought to be proceeded with at once.

I have, &c.

His Excellency the Right Hon. Sir A. H. Layard, G.C.B.,
Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador.

Excellence,

Péra, le 1er Mai, 1880.

Ayant été requis de rapporter sur les affaires pendantes, j'ai l'honneur d'informer votre Excellence que la seule affaire de cette nature que j'ai entre mes mains c'est celle de la Société en liquidation, Abbott Effendi. Quant aux détails, je me réfère au projet de note que j'ai soumis dernièrement et que votre Excellence a adressé à la Porte en date du 17 Avril, 1880.

J'ai, &c.
(Signé) C. G. STAVRIDES.

Son Excellence Sir Henry Layard, G.C.B.'
&c. &c. &c.

No. 307.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 503.)

My Lord,

Therapia, May 11, 1880

WITH reference to my telegram No. 224 of the 10th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch I have received from Mr. Consul-General Blunt, inclosing a letter from Mr. Suter explaining the grounds on which he has resigned the post of Financial Inspector of the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 307.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir,

Salonica, May 2, 1880.

WITH reference to my telegram of this morning in answer to your Excellency's of the 30th ultimo, relative to the appointment of Mr. Suter to the office of Financial Inspector of the Vilayet of Salonica, I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter from that gentleman, explaining the grounds on which he has determined to resign the above post.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 307.

Consul Suter to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir,

Salonica, May 1, 1880.

YOU already are aware that I have been appointed Inspector of Finances in this vilayet. I have no doubt that I owe this appointment to the recommendation of Sir H. Layard, and I seize this opportunity in order to beg you to convey to his Excellency the expression of my gratitude to him.

I regret, however, to inform you that I feel it incumbent upon me to resign my post. As matters stand I cannot hope to render justice to the Ambassador's recommendation, nor is it possible for any right-minded person to retain a post in which it is evident every difficulty will be placed in order to thwart the conscientious execution of my duties.

Up to the present moment my Bavouruldu confirming my nomination has not been sent, although I have made several applications for it to Ali Bey, the Ser Mufetish, who is also my chief. The only document I possess is a telegram dated the 23rd March (o.s.), from Ibrahim Edib Effendi, the Minister of Finance, informing me of my appointment, and ordering me to proceed to Salonica, as it was supposed I was at Smyrna.

Ali Bey has given me no instructions whatever. On his arrival here he told me he had brought all instructions with him, and that he would every day read me a part of them, so that I might translate them and thus learn my duties. This he keeps putting off from time to time. A clerk was also engaged to do my writing and also to help me in reading Turkish, a slight knowledge of which I already possess. This person, however, does not seem inclined to do either, although it was agreed that I should pay him 1 lira a-month out of my own pocket.

I have remarked an evident disinclination on the part of Ali Bey to allow me to learn anything of the business, and everything is carried on by him and the Second Inspector without informing me of a single item. In fact, since my appointment I have done absolutely nothing.

I was under the impression that my salary would be 4,500 piastres per month, in medjidichs lira at 120 piastres. I am now informed by Ali Bey that I shall have to submit to 25 per cent. reduction, and be paid in beshliks, which means another 10 per cent. loss, making a total of 35 per cent. off the 4,500 piastres. I am to receive my pay from the konak, while my colleague of Smyrna gets his from the Ottoman Bank.

It is clear to me that I shall never be allowed to carry out my duties in accordance with the *raison d'être* of the appointment, and were I not to resign I should become a mere tool in the hands of Ali Bey and his and my subordinates. Nor do I think were any one else appointed to it matters would be changed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. C. SUTER.

No. 308.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(Received May 18.)

(No. 65.) *Bucharest, May 7, 1880.*

My Lord,

HAVING completed two years' residence in Roumania as Her Majesty's Representative in this country, I think it may not be uninteresting to your Lordship to receive from me a succinct account recapitulating the principal events which I have witnessed here, and stating the influence of these on the relations of a State so recently admitted into the European family, particularly with the powerful military Empires which surround it.

On my arrival at Bucharest I found this country in a great state of irritation owing to the demand made by its ally, Russia, to detach from it that portion of Bessarabia which had been incorporated with Moldavia by the Treaty of Paris.

The Envoys dispatched by Prince Charles to the different Courts to remonstrate against such a proceeding had just returned, bringing hardly any hopes of foreign support. Prince Bismarck, with his usual frankness, had told the Roumanian Minister that, in his opinion, the three Bessarabian districts were lost for this country, but that they might get good terms from Russia in coming to a direct understanding with that Power, "mais tenez leur la dragée haute."

At that very moment the Czar was desirous to bring about a prompt agreement on that question, so as to exclude, if possible, Europe from its cognizance; to intimidate the Roumanians, His Majesty is supposed to have threatened the disarmament of their native army if necessary, those very soldiers who gave his troops active support before Plevna.

The patriotism of the people had been raised to a high pitch by the events of the last two years, and it may be easily imagined what kind of feelings the report of such a threat provoked in this country.

Prince Charles determined to avoid a collision, and with that view he collected his army in Little Wallachia, and left his capital shortly after my arrival for the ostensible purpose of inspecting it, but in reality with a view to await the course of events in the midst of his own troops.

His Highness returned as soon as the Congress was decided upon. The weeks that followed till the close of the deliberations at Berlin will be long remembered at Bucharest, and the general political excitement was certainly not allayed when the news arrived that not only had the assent of that illustrious Assembly been given to territorial changes distasteful to the Roumanian people, but that the recognition of the country by Europe was to be delayed till both this condition and the "legal status" of the Jews domiciled in the Principality had been modified in conformity with the decisions of the Congress; and that, moreover, incidentally "the Russian army was allowed" (another) "twelve months for the passage of its troops across Roumania."

Treaty of Berlin, Article XXII:—

After the ratification of the Treaty my German and Italian colleagues went away on leave, so that there remained only at Bucharest the Consuls-General of the two neighbouring Empires, Austria and Russia, and myself.

In a recent telegram from the special correspondent of the "Times" newspaper, which appeared on the 3rd May, that gentleman speaks in a sneering manner of the Roumanian Ministers who pleaded the cause of their country before the Congress, and in a tone evidently partaking of the reminiscences drawn from the Berlin atmosphere of the

summer of 1878, one particularly unfriendly to Roumania at the time; but any one who happened like myself to be at Bucharest at that period cannot help feeling much compassion for the men on whom devolved the ungrateful task of defending what they believed the interests of their country before the Representatives of Europe assembled in Council.

Some other remarks of the same correspondent have awakened, however, a feeling of personal sympathy in my breast as describing with considerable accuracy a situation somewhat similar to the one I have had the honour to fill at this Court from May 1878 to the 20th February, 1880, and I take the liberty to allude to it even at the risk of appearing egotistical, but in reality with a view to place your Lordship in full possession of what has been going on here.

The special correspondent, in giving due credit to a Roumanian gentleman whose functions were those of a Diplomatic Agent at Paris, describes them as "a diplomatic situation giving its occupant the fullest share of responsibility without affording him the apparent satisfaction, real authority, or social advantages" of a regular Diplomatic accredited Agent.

The above would be a correct representation of my own position here during that period, with this additional disadvantage, that I had not even a commission or credentials either as Agent of any class or as Consul, a situation almost without a precedent, and that my presence was constantly reminding the Roumanians that they were still denied those privileges of diplomatic intercourse to which they considered themselves entitled, and which, rightly or wrongly, they looked upon as their due, and the result of the important facts which had resulted from the war in the Balkanic Peninsula.

I trust your Lordship will kindly bear this in mind in forming an estimate of the relations I have succeeded in establishing with Roumania during that critical time; and in passing judgment on the value of the negotiations which I have conducted and brought to a conclusion.

The chief reason which prompted your Lordship's predecessor in office to transfer me most unexpectedly from Belgrade to Bucharest two years ago was the urgent necessity of finding some remedy to the unsatisfactory condition into which our commercial relations with Roumania had drifted owing to our refusal to conclude a Commercial Treaty, such as had been signed first by Austria-Hungary in 1875, and subsequently by Russia and Germany.

This important question was so mixed up and interwoven with the fluctuating political relations of the Principality with the Powers that I must crave your Lordship's indulgent patience for referring to it at considerable length in this Report, as I feel it could not be done satisfactorily in a purely Commercial despatch, or without going further back than the time of my residence here.

It must not be forgotten that the reasons which had induced Roumania to enact a most oppressive Tariff of duties on foreign imports were by no means economical ones, but purely and entirely political, and sprang from the warm desire, since avowed, to bring the Great Powers to recognize the right of the Principality to conclude Commercial Conventions.

Count Andrassy has, I believe, since admitted to one of the Delegations that, when he entered into such a Convention in 1875 with Roumania, his Excellency was looking forward to the ultimate recognition of that country as an independent State.

The immediate plan of the people here was to emancipate themselves from the commercial engagements contracted formerly on their behalf by the Porte, and to work on the different Governments by means of the commercial interests of their respective countries, who were sure to suffer considerably from the application of the new General Tariff to their trade. It was to come into force on the 1st/13th July, 1876.

The correspondence laid before both Houses of Parliament in 1877 (No. 11) gives abundant evidence of the alarm felt by our manufacturers at the losses that were likely to accrue to British produce from this new General Tariff should Her Majesty's Government persevere in adhering to those principles which the other Powers were disregarding in treating directly on commercial matters with Roumania.

The Government of Austria-Hungary had not lost any time, and had concluded a Convention on the 22nd June, 1875, fully an entire year before the new Tariff was to come into operation, and a Conventional Tariff was elaborated subsequently, stipulating much lower duties in favour of the Contracting Parties. Russia and Germany were about to adopt a similar course, and Her Majesty's Government taking to heart the importance of the British trading interests concerned, a Declaration was signed in London at the Foreign Office on the 30th November, 1876, securing to British trade the full benefits of the Austrian Conventional Tariff for six months (till the 30th April/12th May, 1877), an arrangement

which was subsequently extended for another nine months by another Declaration, signed at Bucharest, i.e., till the 13th January/1st February, 1878, and after that by a tacit understanding till the 12th May, 1878, but which the Roumanian Government declined to extend after that date.

Such was the state of our commercial relations here at the date of my arrival at Bucharest; incessant complaints were made with regard to the uncertainty then prevailing, and likewise to the classification of cotton yarns.

The archives of the Commercial Department bear witness as to the manner in which these questions were satisfactorily settled within a few months, and the despatches emanating from that Department and dated the 22nd May, the 21st August, and the 4th October, 1878, show that these results were properly appreciated at the time.

On the 13th August of that year, *i.e.*, on the day on which the ratifications of the Treaty of Berlin were being exchanged, a Roumanian law was being promulgated, conferring in favour of British productions the most-favoured-nation clause until such time as a definite Treaty could be concluded.

In the following autumn Russia opened regular diplomatic relations at Bucharest by appointing a Minister Resident.

Austria and Turkey followed, and out of deference to the wishes of Prince Charles, gave to their Representatives the rank of Envoys.

Bessarabia was transferred to Russia by the mere removal of the Roumanian officials, whilst the Prince and his Government carefully abstained from giving any sanction to that transfer by any act or signature on their part.

The taking possession of the Dobrudscha led to some unpleasantness between Roumania and the Russian Cabinet, the latter having hinted its desire to secure a military right of way through that district for the future, a wish which this country felt by no means inclined to gratify. Shortly afterwards the Russian Government took offence at the manner and proceedings of the Roumanians in claiming the boundary about Silistria, which had been proposed in their favour by six of the Commissioners, the Russian being the only one dissenting. A question to which Roumania continues to attach great importance, and which, unfortunately, remains still in abeyance.

In February 1879 the coolness with Russia obtained a fresh confirmation by the recall of the Minister of that Power from Bucharest, and the Legation has been ever since in charge of a Consul.

But the question which of all others agitated Roumania during many months was the Constitutional fulfilment of the requirements of the Treaty of Berlin in favour of persons professing the Jewish religion.

I need not trouble your Lordship with any reference to this much-vexed topic, as I understand that papers are shortly to be laid before Parliament stating full particulars of the difficulties which this unpopular question presented during its discussion.

These papers will also, I presume, show how regular diplomatic relations were established between all the Great Powers and Roumania on the 20th February last.

Six weeks later, *i.e.*, on the 5th April, a Treaty of Commerce and Navigation between Great Britain and Roumania was signed by me, which is under the consideration of Her Majesty's Government awaiting ratification, and which it is hoped will remove, if approved of, that uncertainty and most of the inconvenience under which British trade with this country was suffering some years back.

There can be no doubt that the Roumanian Government have given in that Treaty proof of their desire to establish the most friendly relations with Great Britain, and as I have never omitted to assure them during the past two years, under the most difficult circumstances, of the sincere desire of Her Majesty's Government and of the British nation to see Roumania free and prosperous, so I venture to hope that your Lordship will be pleased to authorize me to renew similar assurances in future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 309.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 68. Confidential.) *Bucharest, May* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

THE length of my preceding despatch of the 7th instant, No. 65, has prevented my giving your Lordship at its conclusion a description of the actual relations of Roumania with the Great Powers.

For this new country—new as regards its political situation—a too close intimacy between its two immediate powerful neighbours, Austria and Russia, would be quite as alarming as their antagonism; the first might lead these Empires to tread upon Roumanian rights, and gratify their tastes at her expense, whilst in the latter case this Principality would necessarily become the theatre of a war in which it would unavoidably have to take a part which, according to present appearances, would certainly not be on the side of Russia.

The Russian Cabinet has shown itself overbearing towards their former ally, and the way in which it has obstructed the satisfactory settlement of the boundary between Bulgaria and the Dobrudscha during eighteen months, and the support it is accused of giving to certain anti-Constitutional parties in Moldavia, have made it incur much odium.

There is no ill-feeling whatever here against the Turks—quite the contrary; and the relations of the Roumanian Envoy at Constantinople with the Sultan are particularly friendly, whilst the treatment of persons of the Mahommedan creed in the Dobrudscha has been especially gratifying to the Porte.

During a long time Prince Bismarck omitted no opportunity for showing his dislike to the Roumanians and their Prince; there have been signs, however, lately of a more favourable and conciliatory disposition on the part of His Highness.

Austria has shown by her proceedings a most friendly sentiment towards this country, and has missed no opportunity to secure the confidence of its people.

There will ever be a strong sympathy here for France, England, and Italy, as countries from which Roumania can expect nothing but the best advice and disinterested moral support, but the people are of an unusually sensitive disposition, and they feel very much that the interest of Western Europe is given of late in preference to other races, some of whom they consider as inferior to them; and they look upon the Russian proclivities of the Slavs of the Peninsula with considerable misgivings.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 310.

Mr. White to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 68.) *Bucharest, May* 10, 1880.

My Lord,

PRINCE HENRY BATTENBERG, a younger brother of the Prince of Bulgaria, has been staying here on a visit to the Prince of this country.

The intimacy of the two Rulers continues, but there is a coolness growing up between the Governments of the two conterminous Principalities. M. Stourdza, the Roumanian Consul-General, has returned here from Sophia, and is not going back to his post at present, as the Roumanians think they have cause to complain of the proceedings of the Bulgarians with regard to their Representative, and to the language of which they have made use with regard to some differences on the boundary near Silistria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. A. WHITE.

No. 311.

Captain Sale to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 2. Political.) *Ragusa, May* 8, 1880.

My Lord,

HAVING arrived here on the 27th ultimo, I waited until the 1st instant, the day fixed for the reassembling of the Commission.

Finding that all the Commissioners were not present on the 1st instant and that they could not be all present for several days, I went at once on to Scutari to see Mr. Kirby Green, and to hand over to him certain cyphers and despatches which I had been requested to deliver.

I went to Scutari, viâ St. Giovanni De Medua and Alessio, and returned to Ragusa, viâ Cettinjé and Cattaro.

Whilst at Alessio I had the opportunity of conversing with Padre Mariana, one of the leading Roman Catholic priests of the country, who knows most thoroughly the feelings

and strength of the Roman Catholic Albanians, and during my short stay at Scutari, I had the opportunity of witnessing the arrival of the Mirdite contingent from the Mirdite mountains, to take part in the operations against the Montenegrins.

I had also, in company with Mr. Green, an interview with Izzet Pasha, the Vali, or Governor-General of Scutari.

When at Cettinjé, I had, in company with Mr. Green, the honour of two interviews with Son Altesse the Prince, and also with the official who acts as Minister for Foreign Affairs.

From all that I saw, and from my previous knowledge of the country, I can fully corroborate all that Mr. Green has written on the subject, but I venture to add a few remarks in case they should prove of interest to your Lordship.

From what I could gather as to the strength of the opposing forces, the Northern Albanians could bring on to the Albano-Montenegrin frontier a force of 25,000 men, this being inclusive of the Mirdites and the men of Gusinje-Plava. This is the extreme force of the Northern Albanians only, without counting the Middle and Southern Albanians.

The tribes near the Montenegrin frontier are for the most part armed with excellent Peabody Martini-Henry rifles, with plenty of ammunition, but the Mirdites have, out of a total contingent of 2,300 men, only about 300 so armed, the rest having the native guns only.

There can be no doubt but that the Roman Catholic Albanians are fully as much determined as the Mahometans to resist an encroachment of territory occupied by Albanian tribes.

I was much struck with the orderly manner in which the entry of the Mirdites into Scutari was managed, and, speaking generally, it seemed to me that the whole arrangements made by the Albanian League were systematic and businesslike.

I was informed that the Finance Committee of the League had provided for the maintenance of some 8,000 men, for from four to six months on the disputed frontier.

The Governor-General of Scutari repeatedly affirmed that he had carried out literally and exactly his instructions received from the Porte; he wished us to understand that he was still *de facto* Governor-General of Scutari, but yet had no power to stay the open proceedings of the Albanian League.

When passing to Cettinjé, through Rjeka, I noticed that the whole of the Mahometan portion of the inhabitants of Podgoritza had been removed to that place, Podgoritza being threatened by the League, and the Montenegrins being, as I understand, afraid of treachery.

In Montenegro, as far as I could gather, the prospect of a war with the Albanians is exceedingly unpopular; there seemed to be an idea that the affair had been badly manged by their own authorities, and there is just at present an urgent need for the men to be at home, looking after the cultivation of their fields.

When at Scutari, I received, through Mr. Green, an assurance from the frontier tribes, that I, personally, could go amongst them in safety.

When in Cettinje, I asked Son Altesse the Prince, if he had any objection to my going amongst the Albanians on the frontier to observe the state of affairs. Son Altesse the Prince was pleased to reply that he had perfect confidence in my acting loyally, and, therefore, had no objection to make.

If, therefore, your Lordship thinks fit, I can go myself on the disputed frontier with the full consent of both parties; but this permission by no means applies to the Commission of Demarcation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) M. T. SALE, *Captain, R.E.*,
Commissioner.

No. 312.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 31.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, May 12, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 16th March, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that the Ottoman Envoy accredited to this Court has officially notified to the Servian Government the approaching return of Aali Bey, the originally named Turkish Commissioner in the State properties and religious establishment ("Vakouf") question.

The Servian Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured me that on Aali Bey's arrival at Nisch he will be joined by his Servian colleague, and the work of the Commission immediately commenced.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 313.

Mr. L. Gould to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 32.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, May 12, 1880.

SO many rumours concerning the disturbed state of the Servo-Albanian frontier and reports of Albanian incursions into Servia having found expression more especially in the Austrian press, I availed myself of a conversation I had yesterday with M. Ristich to inquire into their truth. His Excellency stated to me that in most instances small occurrences had been greatly magnified, and that the state of the frontier did not cause the Government any anxiety, though it was a fact that about a fortnight ago 500 Albanians made a raid into Servian territory, and that refugees from Old Servia were continually seeking protection on Servian soil. That this Government, however, views with grave anxiety the general state of Albania there can be no doubt, from the fact that it places another serious difficulty in the way of the extension of the Servian railway lines southward to Salonica.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LOUIS E. GOULD.

No. 314.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 235.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 14, 1880.

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph that Baron Haymerle had acceded to your proposal that an identic note should be addressed to the Porte calling upon it to execute the still unfulfilled engagements taken under the Treaty of Berlin, and especially those relating to the Greek and Montenegrin frontiers and the reforms in Armenia.

His Excellency further proposes, if the other Governments consent, that your Lordship should prepare a project of note to be agreed upon by the Cabinets, which he considers would be a more convenient mode of proceeding than that of leaving it to be drawn up by their Representatives at Constantinople.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 315.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 236. Confidential.)
My Lord,

Vienna, May 14, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE, when speaking to me to-day of the collective action to be taken at the Porte to obtain the execution of the Treaty of Berlin, said that he is so entirely agreed with your Lordship upon the importance of a concert of the Powers in dealing with the affairs of Turkey, that it had given him the greatest pleasure to adhere to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government.

He hoped, however, that your Lordship would agree with him in considering that there are questions respecting which it would be desirable to have a confidential interchange of views between the Governments more especially interested in them previous to their being submitted to the discussion of the others who were more remotely or hardly at all affected by them.

For instance, with regard to Armenia, in which Austria had no direct interest, he would consider it natural that Her Majesty's Government should concert confidentially with Russia upon the measures which it might be proposed to suggest to the Porte; and, if a question affecting Syria were to arise, he thought it would be right for your Lordship

to exchange views with the French Government before the other Powers were invited to come to decisions upon them.

In the same way, in matters relating to the Balkan Peninsula, which touch the vital interests of Austria so much more closely than those of any other Power, he hopes that your Lordship will not be unwilling to enter into an unreserved exchange of views before communicating the opinion of Her Majesty's Government upon them to all the other Cabinets.

He is anxious not to be supposed to mean that these or any other questions relating to Turkey should be settled without consultation with all the Treaty Powers, who must equally be referred to, whether the Cabinets of London and Vienna came to an entire agreement upon them or not; but he believes that an ultimate agreement among them will be best advanced by preliminary confidential communications between such of them as are especially interested.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 316.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 391. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 17, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 380 of the 14th instant, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that M. de Freycinet has just given me confidentially a copy of a despatch, which he sends to-night to M. Léon Say for communication to your Lordship, and which contains the answer of the French Government to your Lordship's proposal of the 4th instant, that the Representatives of the six Great Powers at Constantinople shall address simultaneous and identic notes to the Porte on the Greek, Montenegrin, and Armenian questions.

I have barely time to transmit the inclosed copy to your Lordship by this evening's messenger.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 316.

M. de Freycinet to M. Léon Say.

Monsieur, *Paris, le* 17 *Mai*, 1880.

DÈS son arrivée à Paris, Lord Lyons m'a apporté le texte de la Circulaire de Lord Granville, en date du 4 Mai, dont vous avez reçu de votre côté la communication officieuse.

Le Gouvernement Anglais nous invite, ainsi que les autres Puissances, à adresser à notre Représentant à Constantinople des instructions pour qu'une note identique et simultanée soit remise à la Porte Ottomane, lui demandant d'exécuter, sans plus de retard, les obligations qui lui sont imposées par le Traité de Berlin en ce qui concerne la Grèce, le Monténégro, et l'Arménie. Après avoir formulé cette invitation, Lord Granville rappelle succinctement les faits qui la motivent à ses yeux.

Nous n'hésitons pas à reconnaître avec le Gouvernement de la Reine les graves inconvénients que présente l'inexécution prolongée du Traité de Berlin sur les trois points qu'il signale. Nous sommes donc disposés à nous associer à lui et aux autres Puissances Signataires du Traité pour faire, à la Porte Ottomane, la représentation collective qui nous est proposée, et vous pouvez en donner l'assurance formelle au Principal Secrétaire d'État de la Reine. Toutefois, l'importance même de la démarche à laquelle nous sommes conviés à prendre part nous fait désirer qu'il soit entendu que la rédaction de la note identique à remettre à la Porte devra être préalablement concertée entre les divers Cabinets.

Je n'ai que de courtes observations à faire relativement aux trois questions spéciales que Lord Granville passe en revue.

En ce qui concerne les règlements des frontières Grecques, la lenteur de la Turquie à s'expliquer sur le projet de Commission de Délimitation dont le Marquis de Salisbury lui a donné connaissance ne nous paraît pas un motif suffisant pour arrêter l'action des Puissances Médiatrices dans la forme concertée entre elles. Nous pensons, comme vous

avez été chargé déjà de l'indiquer au Gouvernement Anglais, que la réunion internationale proposée par le Cabinet de Londres peut et doit être constituée sans que nous attendions de la Porte la réponse que la Circulaire de Lord Granville a pour objet de réclamer.

Quant à l'affaire du Monténégro, la Porte vient de nous faire connaître ses intentions, dont le Cabinet Anglais désirait lui demander l'exposé. Elle répond à notre remontrance collective du 8 Mai en proposant une enquête sur les faits et en concluant à une délibération avec les Puissances. Il est à craindre qu'un échange de vues poursuivi dans ces termes ne hâte pas beaucoup la solution des difficultés pendantes.

La situation de l'Arménie nous semble, comme au Cabinet Britannique, vraiment déplorable, et une amélioration aussi prompte que possible dans les conditions Administratives de cette contrée est, sans contredit, nécessaire. Nous insisterons donc volontiers pour l'adoption immédiate des mesures prescrites par l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin.

Vous voudrez bien donner lecture de la présente dépêche au Comte Granville, et vous en laisserez copie entre ses mains.

No. 317.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 392.)
My Lord, *Paris, May* 17, 1880.

IN my despatch No. 380 of the 14th instant I had the honour to report to your Lordship that I had given M. de Freycinet a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 481 of the 11th instant containing a proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors at Paris or Berlin on the Greek Frontier question.

I have, herewith, the honour to transmit to you a copy of a despatch which M. de Freycinet sends this evening to M. Léon Say, and which contains the answer of the French Government to this proposal.

M. de Freycinet has only just communicated the despatch to me, and I have barely time to have a copy made for your Lordship before the messenger goes this evening.

The views expressed appear to be in part the same as those stated to me verbally by M. de Freycinet on the 14th instant, of which a report is given in my despatch No. 381 of that day.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

Inclosure in No. 317.

M. de Freycinet to M. Léon Say.

Monsieur, *Paris, le* 17 *Mai*, 1880.

JE vous écrivais dernièrement qu'à notre avis le Cabinet de Londres, au lieu de s'attarder à attendre l'adhésion de la Porte Ottomane au projet de Commission de Délimitation présenté par le Marquis de Salisbury devrait prendre, sans plus de délai, l'initiative de convoquer la réunion des Commissaires des Puissances Médiatrices. En effet, puisque la Turquie ne doit pas être appelée à participer à cette réunion, du moins avec voix délibérative, son consentement n'est pas nécessaire pour que la Commission soit constituée et commence ses travaux.

Le Comte Granville a répondu à nos observations sur ce point dans une dépêche, en date du 11 Mai, dont Lord Lyons a bien voulu me donner connaissance, et dont j'ai l'honneur de vous transmettre ci-joint copie pour votre information. Rattachant notre suggestion au projet dont il nous a saisis par sa note Circulaire du 4 de ce mois, le Principal Secrétaire d'État de la Reine pense qu'il serait bon d'indiquer, dans la note identique, à l'adresse de la Porte Ottomane qu'au cas où la Turquie ferait difficulté d'admettre que la Commission Internationale siégât sur son territoire, la Conférence de Puissances Médiatrices serait convoquée ailleurs. Son Excellence ajoute que le lieu de réunion pourrait être fixé à Berlin ou Paris et que, si la Porte tardait à donner une réponse définitive, on pourrait convenir de commencer pratiquement les travaux avant la fin de Juin.

Le Cabinet de Londres se montre ainsi disposé à entrer dans l'ordre d'idées où nous l'avons convié à se placer et nous ne saurions que lui en être reconnaissants. Nous devons toutefois lui faire remarquer qu'il y aurait quelque inconvénient à offrir à la Porte Ottomane, comme une alternative, soit l'envoi d'une Commission sur les lieux, c'est-à-dire en territoire Turc, soit la convocation d'une Conférence Européenne à Berlin ou à Paris.

Il y a probabilité que les Ministres du Sultan se prononceraient s'ils en avaient le choix pour la Commission locale dans l'espoir de gagner du temps par suite de la difficulté de trouver un lieu d'installation convenable. Nous croyons donc qu'il est préférable de ne s'en remettre d'aucune façon à l'appréciation de la Porte, et de constituer la réunion internationale immédiatement, ainsi que je vous l'écris dans ma réponse à la Circulaire Anglaise du 4 Mai.

Quant à donner à cette réunion la forme d'une Conférence entre les Ambassadeurs des Puissances dans une des capitales de l'Europe, c'est une idée à laquelle nous adhérons d'autant plus volontiers que, dans le principe, cette manière de procéder nous a paru la plus avantageuse et que nous étions disposés à la recommander nous mêmes. Il ne nous semble pas, d'ailleurs, qu'il soit besoin d'attendre les derniers jours de Juin pour réaliser une semblable combinaison, ni qu'il y ait aucun motif sérieux d'en retarder la mise à exécution. Après que la Conférence se sera formée, et lorsque ses délibérations seront en train, il sera temps de rechercher une entente avec le Gouvernement Turc, tant pour qu'il soumette à la Conférence, simultanément avec le Gouvernement Grec, ses propositions concernant le tracé de la frontière, que pour l'envoi ultérieur sur les lieux de la délégation technique chargée de mettre à exécution la délimitation adoptée.

Je vous prie d'exposer notre manière de voir à Lord Granville et de me faire connaître la résolution à laquelle il s'arrêtera.

Agréez, &c.

No. 318.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May* 18.)

Constantinople, le 17 Mai, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LA Sublime Porte vient de répondre à la seconde note collective des Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin concernant la question du Monténégro.

Je vous transmets ci-après, pour votre information, le texte de notre réponse :—

" Leurs Excellences les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin m'ont fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 3 Mai un *pro-memoria* collectif par lequel, en se référant à leurs communications précédentes, et d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements, ils informent la Sublime Porte que sa réponse à leur note collective du 24 Avril n'a, à aucun point de vue, 'été considérée comme satisfaisante,' et demande à la Sublime Porte de leur faire savoir catégoriquement si elle est résolue ou non à récuperer les positions qu'elle a irrégulièrement évacuées, et à procéder à la remise de ces points aux Monténégrins suivant les stipulations précises du mémorandum annexé au dit Protocole."

" Si les Puissances ne se montrent point satisfaites des premières explications qui leur ont été données par la Sublime Porte, c'est évidemment que les faits et les circonstances qui ont accompagné les opérations d'évacuation ont été altérés ou dénaturés à leurs yeux. Il importe donc à l'honneur aussi bien qu'à l'intérêt du Gouvernement Impérial que ces faits et ces circonstances soient élucidés et dégagés de toute équivoque. Dans cette pensée, la Sublime Porte, faisant appel aux sentiments de haute justice des Puissances, a l'honneur de leur proposer, préalablement à toute décision, de faire sur les lieux mêmes une enquête destinée à mettre au grand jour tous les faits qui se sont produits à l'occasion de cette évacuation. Je suis autorisé à ajouter que le Gouvernement Impérial, comme une preuve non équivoque de sa sincérité, laisse aux Puissances le soin de déterminer la forme et les conditions d'exécution de cette enquête."

" La Sublime Porte, dès que la lumière se sera faite au moyen de cette enquête, avisera, après délibération avec les Puissances, aux mesures propres à aplanir les difficultés actuelles sans donner lieu à de nouveaux conflits et à une nouvelle effusion de sang."

No. 319.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 176.

M. de Giers suggests that your Lordship's meaning would be more accurately expressed by substituting the cession of territory—Montenegro for Kuči Krajna, as that district is not really co-terminous with the intended frontier.

I imagine this suggestion comes from Austria.

No. 320.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.)

St. Petersburgh, May 17, 1880.

M. DE GIERS has informed me that France and other Governments have taken exception to the latter portion of his reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 176 in which he alludes to advisability of the Porte failing to meet the demands made upon it by Europe. He said that he had made no express allusion to contingency of physical force.

No. 321.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(No. 247.)
(Telegraphic.)

Constantinople, May 18, 1880.

FOLLOWING from Consul-General Micheil, dated yesterday :—

" I have received following from Consul Brophy :—

" 'Number of Turkish villages known to be burnt up to present thirteen. Apathy of authorities incomprehensible [?].'"

No. 322.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, May 18, 1880, 9·30 P.M.

A LONG memorandum has just been handed to me, and has also been addressed to the other Consuls of the Great Powers by the Albanian Committee.

It states that the arrangement of the 12th ultimo has violated one of the most important clauses of the Treaty of Berlin, by disregarding the national rights of the Albanians. Committee declare that, although Albania wishes to remain on the defensive, it cannot defer indefinitely, for financial reasons, the assertion of its rights; therefore, if Montenegro does not quickly renounce its claim to Albanian territory, it must bear the consequences. An earnest appeal is made to the Powers not to overlook [?] national existence of Albania.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 323.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 18.)

(Telegraphic.)

Scutari, May 18, 1880, 10·30 P.M.

THE Albanian Committee sent to me this afternoon through two of its members the telegram, of which the following is a translation, addressed to Mr. Gladstone, with a request that I should forward it, as the telegraph is not available for such messages to the Committee; I felt that I could not refuse request, but I abstained from expressing any opinion on the subject to the bearers of it :—

" The Albanian people, represented at present by the Undersigned, has the honour to convey to your Excellency its most lively congratulations on the occasion of your selection as Premier by Her Britannic Majesty. This people at the same time invokes the high protection of the glorious English nation in the cause of its territorial integrity, of rights for which Albania has devoted its efforts, its life." Here the seals and signatures of four Mahommedan and three Roman Catholic notables of Scutari, who signed for the Albanian Committee.

(Not sent to Sir H. Layard.)

No. 324.

Earl Granville to the Right Hon. G. J. Goschen, M.P.

(No. 1.)

Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

Sir,

THE Queen having been graciously pleased to appoint you to be Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to the Porte in order to relieve Sir Henry Layard, who is about to proceed on leave of absence, from his duties as Her Majesty's Representative at Constantinople, I transmit to you herewith the requisite full powers and credentials.

It has been considered desirable that a Special Ambassador should be named on this occasion, instead of leaving the affairs of the Embassy to be conducted in the ordinary course by a Chargé d'Affaires, in order to mark the sense which Her Majesty's Government entertain of the gravity of the situation, and to impress the Sultan, by personal communication with His Majesty through a Representative of your Excellency's Parliamentary and political standing, that the time has arrived when the Government of this country are determined to insist, in concert with the other Powers, upon the fulfilment of the engagements which the Porte has entered into with regard to Greece and Montenegro, and of the pledges for reformed administration which the Turkish Government has so often solemnly given and so repeatedly broken.

It is an object of European interest that the delay which has occurred in the execution of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin respecting Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia should be brought to a close, and Her Majesty's Government have invited the other Treaty Powers to instruct their Representatives at Constantinople to join with your Excellency in addressing an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte, requiring that effect should be given to the Articles of the Treaty which relate to the European frontiers in question, and to the reforms required for the improvement of the condition of the Armenian population.

It is essential that a definite conclusion should be arrived at for the rectification of the Greek frontier indicated by the Congress at Berlin, for it is evident that while this boundary remains undecided, the relations between the Governments of Turkey and Greece cannot be placed on a satisfactory footing, nor can any effectual measures be taken for repressing brigandage and establishing good order and improved administration in the frontier districts of Thessaly and Epirus.

The Porte has for some time had before it a proposal made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had received the assent of the Powers, that an International Commission should be appointed to settle on the spot the rectification of the boundary, and, although the Porte has pointed out the difficulties which might be encountered by such a Commission, it has not yet given a definite reply.

Her Majesty's Government have now suggested to the Powers that an alternative proposal might be placed before the Porte, and that if for the reasons already assigned the Turkish Government is still unwilling that a Boundary Commission should meet in Turkish territory or are unable to guarantee its safety, a Conference should be assembled at Berlin or Paris to consider and decide by a majority upon the proper line of rectification of frontier to be adopted, and that this Conference should be assembled for actual business before the end of June if by that time a satisfactory answer has not been received from the Porte.

The continued retention of the frontier districts in question is, as Lord Salisbury pointed out, of no material advantage to the Porte, and, as the Turkish Government has already agreed in principle to a line of frontier which would give a considerable extension to Greece in Thessaly and in Epirus, Her Majesty's Government hope that the Porte will recognize the necessity of accepting without further demur the mediation of the Powers under the XXIVth Article of the Treaty of Berlin in one or other of the forms proposed.

Her Majesty's Government wish it to be distinctly understood that while urging the completion of this rectification of frontier upon the Porte in the interests both of Turkey and Greece, they do not desire that there should be any forcible annexation to the latter country of an unwilling Mussulman population, in such numbers as to be a source of danger and insecurity. On the other hand, they consider that the line should be so drawn as to relieve the Christian Greek-speaking inhabitants, so far as they are collected in a sufficiently defined district, from a Government which does not satisfy their traditional sympathies and national aspirations.

The question of the Montenegrin frontier is even of a more pressing character,

as, unless it is promptly dealt with, there may at any time be a collision between the Montenegrin troops and the Albanians, who have assembled to oppose the cession of Kuči-Krajna, and it is not unlikely that the spirit of resistance to authority which the Turkish authorities have allowed to grow up in regard to this matter may spread throughout Northern Albania, and that this province, which has for some time been in a state little short of anarchy, may soon be given over entirely to civil disorder and to disturbances, which the Porte will be powerless to repress, but upon which other Powers could not look with indifference.

It appears to Her Majesty's Government that the Porte should be collectively called upon by the Powers to state specifically its intentions as to the Montenegrin frontier, and to bring the arrangement into which it has entered with regard to Kuči-Krajna into immediate practical execution.

By the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds, and to periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Porte to make known any steps which it may have taken under this Article, nor have any measures been adopted for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers. The Reports which Her Majesty's Government have received show that the state of Armenia is deplorable, and they cannot think that this Article should be permitted any longer to remain a dead letter. They believe that it is only by the exercise of united pressure that the Porte can be induced to fulfil its duty in this respect, and they consider that the due execution of the Article should be at once demanded, and the Porte be called upon to state explicitly what the steps are which it has taken in compliance with this provision of the Treaty.

Besides the obligations with regard to Armenia incumbent upon the Porte under this Article of the Treaty of Berlin, the Turkish Government has repeatedly undertaken to reform the abuses which disgrace the Turkish Administration throughout the whole Ottoman Empire.

Her Majesty's Government cannot suppose that the Sultan, in whom the whole authority of the Empire has become centralized, is himself unaware of the urgent necessity for some change in the system which has brought the Ottoman Empire to its present disastrous state.

Repeated warnings have been addressed to the Porte both by Her Majesty's Government and by Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople. In May 1876 Lord Derby informed Musurus Pasha that both the circumstances and the state of feeling in this country were very much changed since the Crimean war, and in a despatch to Sir H. Elliot in the following June on the accession of Sultan Murad, his Lordship remarked that it was undeniable that the liberal and enlightened projects of reforms promulgated at Constantinople had not been brought into practical operation in the provinces. * * * The incapable men, who had been placed in positions of authority, should be at once removed. Extortion and corruption should be promptly punished, and the reforms in the administration of justice, and the concession of full civil rights to all the religious communities, vigorously proceeded with; and, at the Constantinople Conference, Lord Salisbury, when appealing to the Porte not to reject the final proposals of the Plenipotentiaries, declared that it should be understood by the Porte that Great Britain was resolved not to sanction misgovernment and oppression, and that, if the Porte by obstinacy or apathy opposed the efforts which were then making to place the Ottoman Empire on a more secure basis, the responsibility of the consequences which might ensue would rest solely with the Sultan and his advisers.

Your Excellency is aware, from the correspondence with which you have been made acquainted, and from the Papers presented to Parliament, of the various recommendations for reforms which have, from time to time, been addressed to the Porte by my predecessors, and of the Reports which have been received from Her Majesty's Embassy and Consulates, showing the wretched state of the Turkish Empire in Europe and in Asia, and the measures which are needed for introducing better administration into the provinces.

The Porte in October 1878 promised, in reply to Lord Salisbury's representations, to place some foreign officers on the Central Council of the Gendarmerie, and also to employ them in that force when constituted, to appoint some foreign lawyers to superintend the Tribunals, and to introduce, with the assistance of foreign

functionaries, a new system of tax-collection to supersede tithe-farming, first into one or two provinces, and then gradually into the whole Empire. They also agreed that the Governors of provinces, magistrates, and receivers of revenue should be irremovable except for misconduct, and should be appointed for terms of at least five years.

Little was done during the following year in execution of these promises. The Porte appointed certain foreign Inspectors of Finance, but they seem to have had no real authority or influence, and two Englishmen named were so dissatisfied with the position in which they found themselves that one refused to take up the appointment, and the other resigned. The Porte also appointed Judicial Inspectors for the provinces, but this measure seems to have aggravated rather than improved the judicial system; and Sir H. Layard, after his journey through Syria, stated to the Porte that he had learned that men of known incompetency and of bad reputation had been appointed through influence and favour; and added that already one Procureur-Général, the one sent to Diarbekir, had been found guilty of taking bribes, and that the class of men sent had, instead of inspiring confidence, led to the conviction that it would be more difficult than ever to obtain justice, and to make any real reform in the Tribunals.

It also appears from his reports that the rule as to retaining the Valis in their posts for a fixed period has been broken through, and no efficient steps taken for the proper organization of the gendarmerie.

Further promises of judicial and financial reforms and organization of the gendarmerie were made by the Porte in November last, when the Turkish Government had taken alarm at a rumour that the British fleet was coming into Turkish waters, and possibly to Besika Bay. Lord Salisbury then said that for the present the fleet should not move into Turkish waters, but that he could make no promises for the future; and that he could give no undertaking that England would abstain from active measures if nothing were done to satisfy the promises which the Government of the Sultan had given.

The language held by Lord Salisbury and Sir H. Layard has produced no effect. On the contrary, according to the last despatches received from Constantinople, the English officers who had been engaged to proceed to Turkey to organize the greatly-needed gendarmerie, but whose employment has always been steadily opposed by Osman Pasha and the retrograde party at the Palace, and who have remained without position or pay, are about to be sent back to England.

The pretext for this is no doubt the want of funds, to which the failure of all attempts at reform is ascribed, but the financial embarrassments of the Porte are themselves owing to maladministration, and it may be a question whether the Powers should not call for the appointment of a Financial Commission, such as is indicated in the recommendation recorded in the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Congress, which should be charged to examine, not only into the complaints of the bondholders as then proposed, but primarily into the general financial situation of the Porte.

The Eastern Roumelian Commission, which is about to be reconstituted and reassembled at Constantinople, will have before it the projects of Organic Laws for the European provinces so far as the special local Commissions have reported upon them, and it will be sufficient for the present to leave the administration of the European provinces to be examined into by that Commission. The only desire of Her Majesty's Government is that the new laws should be so drawn up as to render equal justice to all classes of the community, with as large a measure of self-government as the condition of the provinces will admit, and with adequate securities against neutralizing reform by influence exercised at Constantinople.

Her Majesty's Government do not underrate the difficulties of introducing reforms into Asia Minor where the necessities of the provinces vary materially. Reforms which might easily be executed among the populations of the more settled provinces where European civilization has exercised some influence, and the Christians are in considerable numbers, would be impracticable in mountain districts inhabited by wild and partly nomad Mussulman tribes.

The Porte has, however, before it ample materials for judging of the necessities of the Asiatic provinces from the representations of the Mussulman and Armenian Delegates of the local Councils summoned last year at Aleppo, Erzeroum, and Diarbekir, all of which point in the direction of local self-government and the abandonment of the excessive centralization by which the provincial authorities are made dependent upon the favour of the Palace, which it is notorious can only be secured by corrupt means.

Her Majesty's Government believe that if the faithful execution of the Treaty of Berlin in regard to the Armenian provinces is effectually brought about by the concert of the Powers, the reform of the administration of the other provinces of Asia Minor must necessarily follow. In the meanwhile, there are certain measures which are imperatively demanded for the restoration of order and the security of life and property among the Mussulman as well as the Christian population, and which could be carried at once into effect, such as the organization of gendarmerie, the relief of the people from irregular taxation, and, above all, reform in the system by which officials are appointed from Constantinople. Indeed, the source of the greater part of the evils of the provinces is to be found at Constantinople, where provincial office is openly sought for and conferred—although it is well known that it will be unpaid—as a means of acquiring wealth by oppression and corruption.

There are not wanting men of upright character who have shown themselves capable of a better system of Government; but the Sultan has thought fit to reject their counsels and to allow himself to be guided by an ignorant and fanatical party, who are opposed to all real reforms, and who will complete the ruin of the Empire unless the Sultan frees himself in time from their unfortunate influence.

Although Her Majesty's Government have invited the concert of the other Treaty Powers in order to exercise united pressure upon the Porte, they would desire that your Excellency should clearly convey to the Sultan and to the Porte that the representations which you are instructed to make to them are essentially of a friendly character; that it is in the interest of Turkey itself that the pending questions with Greece and Montenegro should be settled, and that the only hope for the maintenance of the Turkish Empire lies in a thorough and searching reform of its administration both at the capital and in the provinces.

At the same time, your Excellency will not fail to make the Sultan and his Ministers understand that their present careful abstinence from menace does not imply any want of earnestness or determination as to the course of policy which they desire to see pursued.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 325.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 18, 1880*

I HAVE to state to your Excellency that the Queen has been pleased to signify her commands that Mr. Harry Clarke Jervoise, of this Office, should be appointed Secretary to your Excellency's Special Embassy, and that Mr. William Edward Goschen, Second Secretary in Her Majesty's Diplomatic Service, should be officially attached to your Excellency in your character of Special Ambassador. Your Excellency will accordingly consider these gentlemen as forming part of your Diplomatic Establishment, and you will employ them in the business of the Embassy in whatever way you may deem most beneficial for Her Majesty's service.

The appointment of Mr. Jervoise as Secretary to your Excellency's Special Embassy is not in any way to affect the position held by Mr. St. John as the Secretary of Embassy at Constantinople.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 326.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 5.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.*

THE accounts which have been received by Her Majesty's Government from Mr. Michell, Her Majesty's Agent and Consul-General in Eastern Roumelia, and which you will find in the archives of Her Majesty's Embassy at Constantinople, tend to show the existence of an organized system of persecution of the Mussulman and Greek populations of the province, through the urgency of secret societies and otherwise.

They likewise tend to show that the acts of violence and oppression complained of

are committed with the connivance, if not under the direct influence, of some of the leading persons in the province.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to obtain accounts and reliable information with regard to the real condition of affairs in Eastern Roumelia. It seems to them that this might be procured by one of the Secretaries attached to Her Majesty's Embassy, who should travel through the districts where the proceedings described by Mr. Michell are said to have taken place, and report upon the condition of the country.

I have therefore to request that, on your arrival at Constantinople, your Excellency will have the goodness to take this suggestion into consideration, and should you think it desirable to do so, that you will depute one of the staff of Her Majesty's Embassy to proceed to Eastern Roumelia, furnished with such instructions for his guidance as you may consider necessary for the purpose.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 327.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 522.)
Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador called upon me this afternoon, being about to leave for Paris, and left with me the copy of a despatch from his Government in reply to my despatch to your Excellency No. 452 of the 4th instant. Your Excellency is already acquainted with the contents of this communication.

I told M. Say that I was disposed to agree in the opinion expressed by M. de Freycinet that the proposal of the Porte for an inquiry by International Commission into the conduct of the Turkish authorities on the Montenegrin frontier was only likely to result in further delay, if, indeed, it were not actually made with that intention.

As regards M. de Freycinet's desire that the mediating Powers should be ready to hold a meeting for the discussion of the Greek Frontier question without waiting for a reply to the fresh representation about to be addressed to the Porte, I admitted that much was to be said in favour of taking the most expeditious course, but I said that there seemed some want of courtesy and some inconsistency in point of form in pressing a Government for an answer to a proposition at the same time that steps were being taken to proceed without any answer at all. But I saw no objection to insisting upon an immediate answer.

I requested his Excellency when he saw M. de Freycinet to-morrow to ask him to consider a suggestion which has been made by Prince Bismarck, that the Turkish Government should be given the option either of sending a Representative to take part in the proposed meeting at Berlin on this question, with the condition of being bound, like the other Governments, by the decision of the majority, or of keeping entirely aloof from the discussion.

M. Say promised to answer by telegraph to-morrow.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 328.

Earl Granville to Captain Cooper.

Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

Sir;

I HAVE received a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Anatolia bearing testimony to the able manner in which you have performed the duties of your Vice-Consulate, and I take this opportunity of expressing to you my thanks for the reports which have been received from you in this Department, and for the valuable services which you have rendered to Her Majesty's Government while carrying out your official duties as Her Majesty's Vice-Consul in Anatolia.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 329.

Earl Granville to Sir A. Paget.

(No. 223.)
Sir,
Foreign Office, May 18, 1880.

THE Italian Ambassador called upon me this afternoon and told me that his Government had received from the Porte the same proposal which had reached me as to an International Commission into the recent events on the Montenegrin frontier, and the conduct of the Turkish authorities there.

General Menabrea asked me what reply Her Majesty's Government intended to give to this communication.

I told his Excellency that I had not as yet had an opportunity of consulting my colleagues upon the subject, but that I was inclined myself at first sight to look upon the proposal as one of the expedients to which the Porte habitually resorted for the purpose of evasion and delay.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 330.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 49. Political.)
My Lord,
Salonica, May 4, 1880.

WITH reference to my immediately preceding despatch No. 48, Political, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of Mr. Assistant Alvarez's Report, with two inclosures, upon the Special Commission which was instituted in the Vilayet of Kossova to examine into, and report upon, the new Organic Statute for the Turkish provinces.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 330.

Mr. Alvarez to Consul-General Blunt.

Sir;
Salonica, May 4, 1880.

IN accordance with the instructions contained in your despatch of the 24th ultimo, I left Salonica for Pristina, the capital of the Vilayet of Kossova, on Tuesday, the 27th, arriving at my destination on the following day. Shortly after my arrival I called on the Vali, Hussein Fiery Pasha, and was well received.

In the course of conversation I mentioned the Special Commission which had been instituted in that vilayet to inquire into, and report upon, the new Organic Statute of the provinces of Roumelia, in conformity with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, and asked his Excellency how it had been constituted, and what were the modifications which it had introduced. His Excellency replied that it had been composed of about twenty Deputies, of whom five were Christians, elected by the inhabitants of the different sandjaks and cazas composing the Vilayet of Kossova, and that it had finished its labours and drawn up its Report, which had been sent to Constantinople about the middle of March. I should here remark, that though I was subsequently able to obtain the information that the sittings of the Commission had lasted twenty days, I could not discover the exact dates of the completion of its Report, and of its transmission to the capital. The Vali showed great reluctance to give me the details of the modifications made in the Statute, a reluctance which I had afterwards reason to think arose more from ignorance than from any desire to keep back knowledge of them. He spoke in disparaging terms of the Commission and its labours, affirming that the members, as well as the population, were totally unable to appreciate the spirit of the new law, and referring, in support of his assertions, to the lawless character of the people. I expressed a desire to have a list of the members of the Commission, stating their position in the vilayet, and the districts by which they had been elected. To this the Pasha then made no objection.

The next morning I paid a visit to the Mufti, Khaireddin Bey, the spiritual head of the Mussulman community of Pristina, and a prelate much respected (and deservedly) by

Mahommedans and Christians alike. He is the most powerful man in the province, not even excepting the Vali, who, on all important questions, is obliged to consult him, and was undoubtedly the most prominent and influential member of the Commission, the comparatively short duration of whose deliberations is mainly to be attributed to him. In replying to my questions on the results of the Commission's labours, the Mufti showed himself thoroughly acquainted with the conversation I had with the Vali of the previous evening. This was explained on my subsequently hearing that on the same evening Fiery Pasha held a secret Council, which the Mufti and several other members of the Idaré-i-Medjliss attended, and at which the reasons of my presence at Pristina were discussed. I only succeeded in obtaining, in general terms, a description of the modifications, which he stated amounted to five, the number given by the Pasha. In the afternoon I went to the konak, and found the Administrative Council sitting. On the departure of its members I reminded the Vali of my request of the previous day. Greatly to my astonishment, he declined to give me the list. On my asking his reasons for so doing, he said that there was no need that I should know who sat on the Commission, as it was, in his opinion, a nonentity. To this I replied that, on the contrary, when the Organic Statute was submitted to the Eastern Roumelia Commission for its approval, the greatest importance would be attached by it to the sentiments expressed by the inhabitants of the provinces through the Reports of their delegates to the Government. His Excellency then referred me to M. Merlot, the Chief Engineer, and *pro tem.* Chief Interpreter of the province, who was only partially acquainted with the names and districts of the members. The next morning, at my request, M. Merlot went to the konak and informed the Pasha that I had expressed myself grieved at the want of confidence in me shown by the refusal of this list. This had the desired effect. The Vali read out the list to M. Merlot, of which the inclosed is a translated copy. The very strong representation of local interests, and the correspondingly small number of the officials, is to be remarked.

Before leaving Pristina I desired to see the two Christian members for that sandjak, Gapo Agha and Axentio Agha, with the view of finding out whether the Christian community in general was satisfied with the changes introduced in the Statute. The latter, probably through fear of exciting the suspicions of the Turkish authorities, declined to see me; the former generally confirmed the statements of the Vali and Mufti with regard to the alterations, but stated their number at ten or twelve instead of five. I expressed my surprise that none of the members had thought of applying for a list of the modifications, and Gapo Agha promised to obtain one from Mahmud Bey, the Secretary of the Administrative Council and Special Commission, and forward it to me. On Saturday morning I left Pristina for Uscub, where I arrived in the afternoon. The next day I saw Serbin Effendi, who had been sent by the Christian community to represent them. He told me that he was only present at the deliberations for the last twelve days of the sittings, and that on the drawing up of the Report which was to be sent to the capital he declined to sign it for that and other reasons. The Vali, however, insisting on his signing, and telling him that the Report would have to be submitted to the Eastern Roumelia Commission, he at length gave way. The most obnoxious change was that made to the effect that Christian testimony should not be received in the Courts in cases between Mussulmans and Christians. Not having heard while at Pristina of such a modification, I seriously doubt the exactness of Serbin Effendi's statement. The other Christians present at the deliberations, who were two in number, as Jovan Effendi, from Jenibazar, did not appear while Serbin Effendi was present, were submissive, and signed the Report without objecting. The Christians, who are not more than 12 or 15 per cent. of the whole population of the vilayet, were largely represented, but as regards those of the Sandjak of Uscub showed no desire to send delegates; Serbin Effendi told me that he was chosen because no one else of the notables would consent to go, one of these gentlemen plainly telling me that it was because he would not be allowed by the authorities to give his opinion freely. This reluctance on the part of the notables accounts for Serbin Effendi's not arriving at Pristina in time for the opening of the Commission.

It is a significant fact that none of the Mussulman Beys of Uscub, of whom there are several, would consent to go as representatives of their community. I am of opinion that the Christians are hardly satisfied with the results of the Commission's labours, of which I inclose a short résumé. The people in general displayed the greatest indifference to and ignorance of the results arrived at.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. ALVAREZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 330.

List of the Members of the Commission instituted at Pristina to report on the New Organic Statute of Roumelia.

SANDJAK of Pristina—
President, the Defterdar of Kossova, Emin Effendi.
The Mectubji (Secretary-General of the Vilayet), Mustah Bey.
Khaireddin Bey, Mufti of Pristina.
Mahmud Bey, Secretary of the Idaré-i-Medjliss and of the Commission.
Beitullah Agha, member of the Idaré-i-Medjliss.
Gapo Agha, Christian, last year in the Idaré-i-Medjliss.
Axentio Agha, ditto.
Sacito Agha, Jew, a merchant and member of the Court of Appeal.

Sandjak of Uscub—
Hafiz Ibrahim Effendi, Secretary of the Sandjak.
Abdullah Agha.
Serbin Effendi, Christian.

Sandjak of Jenibazar—
Eyub Bey.
Haji Ahmed Agha.
Jovan Effendi, Christian.

Sandjak of Taschleja—
Haji Salih Agha.

Caza of Ipec—
Schaban Bey.

Caza of Preschowa—
Maxud Effendi.

Caza of Vuchetrin—
Hussein Effendi, last year member of Idaré-i-Medjliss.

Caza of Gilan—
Schewki Bey.

Inclosure 3 in No. 330.

List of Modifications introduced by the Commission.

ARTICLE 1. Half the members of the Courts of Appeal (First and Second Instance) are to receive salaries.

Art. 2. The members of the Administrative Council, with the exception of the Vali, Defterdar, Mectubji, and Secretary, must be natives of the province.

Art. 3. The spiritual chiefs of each community must serve in the Council one month alternately.

Art. 4. The Mudir and Council of Elders in each village of more than 100 houses must be paid.

Art. 5. No fees are to be levied on petitions.

Art. 6. Christian testimony in cases between Mussulmans and Christians is not to be accepted.

Serbin Effendi is the authority for Article 6.

No. 331.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 19.)

(No. 52. Political.)
Salonica, May 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship the accompanying copy of a Report, with one inclosure, which Mr. Alvarez has addressed to me upon the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Kossova.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 331.

Mr. Alvarez to Consul-General Blunt.

Salonica, May 10, 1880.

Sir,

WITH reference to my previous despatch of the 4th instant relative to the inquiries I made into the labours and composition of the Special Commission instituted in the Vilayet of Kossova for the purpose of inquiring into and reporting upon the new Organic Statute of the provinces of Roumelia in accordance with the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin, in compliance with your instructions to that effect contained in a despatch of the 24th ultimo, I availed myself of my stay at Pristina and Useub to obtain information as to the general state of affairs in that province.

In my first interview with the Vali of Kossova, his Excellency, referring to the muhajers or Mussulman refugees from Kurschumli, Orcub, and other places situate in the territory recently acquired by Servia in virtue of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin, stated that at present they constituted the chief difficulty with which he had to deal. Their number, which he estimated at from 90,000 to 100,000, and insubordinate disposition gave him great uneasiness, and rendered the task of keeping them in order extremely difficult. He commented on their disinclination to work, which he attributed partly to their nationality (Albanian), and partly to the despair in which they have been plunged by the loss of all they possess, and complained of the increase since their arrival in the average number of crimes, such as robberies of cows, sheep, and grain, to which their destitute condition has driven them. Outrages having been reported to have been committed by them on Christians of the province, I made inquiries, and found that one of the reported cases had been grossly exaggerated, and that another was a pure invention. I inclose a translated copy of a telegram referring thereto. Such is the misery to which they are subjected, and so great is their hunger, that on the arrival of the rations of barley, &c., supplied them by the Government, and for which they eagerly wait in large numbers at the railway stations, the grain is devoured raw! For this I have trustworthy authority. Several houses which I saw have been built by the population of Pristina, under Government supervision, gratis. Those refugees who have any property have almost all gone to Useub and Salonica. I heard of cases at the former town of muhajers who were wealthy, viz., had horses, cows, sheep, &c., and yet lived in houses for which 150 piastres a-month were paid as rent by the community. When at Useub many complaints were made to me that the refugees destroyed and ruined the houses in which they were quartered, and that in the cases of houses which they rented from Christians the rent was never paid, while that due to Mussulmans was. Yet the refugees of Useub contrast favourably with those of Pristina, they being more industrious and orderly. This may be accounted for by the fact that they are almost all from Bulgaria, more especially from Kustendil and other frontier districts, while those of Pristina and Jenibazar, with the exception of a few Bosnians at the latter town, are all Albanians from the districts recently annexed to Servia, into which country until lately they frequently made incursions in spite of the efforts of the Turkish troops to prevent them. A short time ago the Servian Government formally demanded an indemnity from the Sublime Porte for the violation of its territory by the Imperial troops. It appears that a large armed band of refugees, while making an incursion into Servia, was pursued across the frontier, and after a short contest brought back. The deportation of some of these with their families to Anatolia in order to terrify and serve as a lesson to the others was resolved upon, and on the night before my departure to Useub 150 of those who had been most prominent in resisting the authorities, were sent with their families to Salonica by special train. In a second interview the Vali informed me that in order to keep the refugees alive 900,000 or 1,000,000 okes of grain a-month were necessary, and as that quantity could not be found in the province for them, he was obliged to have it imported from Salonica. Certain persons, notably Ghalib Bey of Useub, have bought up in large quantities all the grain they could lay their hands on, and refuse to sell except at most exorbitant prices, which the Government, financially embarrassed as it is and in great need of it to support the refugees, cannot possibly pay.

In a visit I paid Khaireddin Bey, the Mufti, who, though obliged by the sentiments of the Mussulman population to appear outwardly fanatical, is really well disposed towards the Christians, that prelate gave the number of the muhajers as 70,000, of whom from 40,000 to 50,000 were in the Sandjak of Pristina, and from 21,000 to 25,000 in the vicinity of the capital. I have reason to believe that the Mufti's estimate is nearer the truth than that of the Vali, whose statements as to their misery he fully confirmed, and I received trustworthy information that their real number was from 50,000 to 65,000, more

than half of whom were to be found in the Sandjak of Pristina. At Useub, in a conversation with the Mutessarif, Muhaddin Pasha, I learnt that Sawas Pasha having just telegraphed to know how many there were from Bulgaria with a view of obtaining their repatriation, of which there is at present a chance, the refugees had been counted and found to be 22,500 or 23,000. The number in the Sandjak of Jenibazar is under 10,000.

The relations with Servia are better than they were a few months previously. Notwithstanding this, the frontier dispute relative to Kanelue still remains unsettled. It appears that in the Treaty of Berlin the boundary was drawn to the south of this town on the Austrian Staff Map. Now Kanelue is marked on that map some 20 miles further south than it really is, and in consequence of this error Servia has received twenty-seven villages more than it was entitled to. The Albanian League has strongly protested against the cession of the disputed territory, and I am reliably informed that the Christians of the newly-annexed districts express great dissatisfaction with the Servian Government and preference for the Turkish on account of the conscription to which the young men are now liable.

The Albanian League has, curiously enough, succeeded in establishing a better feeling between the Mussulmans and Christians of North Albania. An instance of this occurred in the Caza of Vuchotrin about three weeks ago. Some Mussulman Albanian refugees attacked some Christians of that town and carried off their cattle. As the authorities took no notice whatsoever of this crime, the League, which has a branch Committee at Vuchotren possessing far more power and influence than the Kaimakam there, who, politically speaking, is an absolute nonentity, demanded why the robbers had not been punished, threatening to take the law into its own hands were no punishment inflicted on the offenders. This threat was effectual and justice was done.

Khaireddin Bey expressed the greatest dissatisfaction on the part of the population in general on account of the scandalous inefficiency of the police. He complained that the zaptiehs, who receive 120 piastres a-month, including the value of their rations, absolutely neglect their duties, as for the past five months they, like other functionaries, have not been paid. It was hopeless, he said, to have a well-organized and efficient police if the men were not paid 2 liras a-month at least and regularly.

Latterly the Mahommedan community of Pristina has shown tendencies towards an educational development. There are already several schools in the town, and to these will be added this August two new and improved ones with masters brought from Constantinople.

Hussein Fiery Pasha, the Vali of Kossova, has been hardly two months at his post, and may, therefore, be said to the difficulties by which he is surrounded [*sic*]. And great these undoubtedly are. Setting aside the anxiety which the large number of refugees must necessarily cause him, and the question of brigandage in the Sandjak of Jenibazar, which is likely to create a hostile feeling between the Austrian and Turkish authorities, the proximity of Prisrend, the centre of the Albanian movement and the seat of the League, of which several ramifications are to be found in the province, suffices to render his position one of peril; for, though North Albania may be said to be now in a state of comparative tranquillity, it is but the lull before a storm, and, were Prisrend the capital of Kossova instead of Pristina, it would be impossible to prevent the muhajers from leaving a province where they are disliked and forcibly entering Servia. The country would then be again given up to all the horrors of war.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. C. W. ALVAREZ.

Inclosure 2 in No. 331.

The Kaimakam of Gilan to the Vali of Kossova.

(Translation.)
(Telegraphic.)

April $\frac{17}{20}$, 1880.

SINCE the $\frac{8th\ March}{7th\ April}$ no event of this kind has taken place. It is true that Jowo Cowatchonic, of the village of Partesch, himself states that he had been robbed of 1,500 piastres, a pair of oxen, and 27 okes of butter, but the statement that three women were violated is entirely false. The entry of Jowan Gruich's house, the robbery of his goods, and the pouring melted lead on his head attributed to ten Mussulmans, has been proved to be quite untrue by the inquiries made among the villagers themselves. Those who robbed Jowo Cowatchonic have been looked for up to the present time, and are still being sought after. Nobody, not even Jowo, knows who they were, and so the search

for them has been fruitless and they have not been found. When they are I will inform your Excellency of the fact.

No. 332.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 90. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 4, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report to your Lordship that Prenk Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chief, entered Scutari this afternoon at the head of about 2,000 Mirdites and mountaineers from districts which have always followed the lead of the Mirdite Commanders.

No other attempt was made to disguise the entrance of so large a force into Scutari than a slight deviation from the street which passes the Government House, and the Mirdites marched singing their war songs, and headed by their standard-bearers.

Seven banners were counted. Mirdicia is divided into five flags, and the two others represented the clans of Xthela and of the Alessio mountains. I observed that most of the tribesmen were armed with the old flint muskets, and, I am told, only 300 possess breech-loading rifles; but positive promises have been given that the necessary rifles will be forthcoming when the Mirdites reach the Albanian head-quarters at Tousi. As failure to keep this engagement would immediately give rise to serious dissensions between the Roman Catholics and Mussulmans, I have no doubt that the whispers I hear of the local authorities having permitted a certain number of rifles to be abstracted from their stores are well founded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 333.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 92. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 5, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, the translation of a document which has been this morning handed to me by a deputation of two Chiefs of the Hotti and Gruda tribes.

The paper, I have reason to believe, has been drawn up by Mahommedans connected with the Turkish authorities here, and merely represents the feeling of the Roman Catholics in the determination to resist to the last Montenegrin encroachments, but the profuse expressions it contains of loyalty to the Sultan's Government must not be accepted to mean anything else than that the mountaineers wish to maintain the independence they have always known how to exact from the Administration at Scutari.

When receiving the paper from the two Chiefs I earnestly pointed out to them the danger of commencing hostilities against Montenegro, and they replied that they were fully aware of it, but the enthusiasm of their people was so great that they had little hope of being able much longer to restrain them from committing acts of aggression.

They added, they were fully prepared to enter into negotiations with Montenegro, and accept loyally the original line of frontier drawn in the Treaty of Berlin. I was careful to point out to them that Prince Nicholas could only treat with the Porte, and that the Albanians were at present, by their attitude, in open rebellion against the Sultan.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 333.

North Albanian Mountain Chiefs to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)
Sir, *May 2, 1880.*

WE have once before presented to you, as well as to the other Consuls, a protest against the violation of the Treaty of Berlin by which, instead of giving Gusinjé and Plava to

Montenegro as therein stipulated, a portion of our territory had been awarded in exchange for them; and as for nearly 500 years we have been under the benevolent Government of His Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and of which we are well satisfied, we declared to you that we would never accept the notoriously unjust, oppressive, and ill-constituted Government of Montenegro.

Having made such a protest to you we had a hope that you would intervene to secure us some remedy, but, instead, on Thursday, the 10th April (o.s.), at 9 o'clock Turkish time (4 P.M.), the Imperial troops guarding the frontier abandoned the fortifications. Perceiving that the Montenegrin troops were about to take possession of the deserted positions, an occurrence which we could never tolerate, we assembled with the determination of perishing all, and we rushed forward to oppose the Montenegrin troops. We were met with the fire of artillery and musketry, and we returned it and made ourselves masters of the redoubts.

We repeat our former prayer that our incorporation with that unjust Government be prevented, and that, in conformity with the Treaty of Berlin, we be allowed to remain under the jurisdiction of our former and well-beloved Master the Sultan. If this be done we shall breath once again.

(Signed or sealed by the Chiefs of Hotti, Dinoscli, Gruda, Touzi, Clementi, Selca, Vukel, Nikshi, and Lumba.)

No. 334.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 95. Political.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, May 6, 1880.*

BOTH yesterday and to-day the Prince and Voïvoda Bogio Petrovich having several times expressed to Captain Sale and me the great injury that was being inflicted on the Principality by the increasingly threatening attitude of the North Albanians on the Podgoritza frontier, and which obliged a very considerable Montenegrin force to be held in readiness to repel any sudden attack, I thought a favourable opportunity had been offered for suggesting a means for suspending the local gravity of affairs, and thus affording time for calm and deliberate arrangements with the Porte for a return to a healthy state of relations.

I therefore called upon M. Petrovich and placed before him, in an unofficial and friendly way, the idea that the present season being not only of paramount importance to the Montenegrin agriculturists but also to the Albanian peasants for the purpose of completing the sowing of Indian corn—the chief source of sustenance of the populations of both countries—recourse might be had to the local custom of concluding a "besa," or truce, for the necessary number of weeks, when the forces on both sides could return to their homes and fields with a knowledge of security. I understood that the Montenegrin Government could not well enter enter into formal negotiations with the Albanian leaders, but Voïvoda Elia Plamenatz at Podgoritza could easily, in an informal manner, observing the traditional usages, accomplish the desired end.

M. Petrovich did not hold out much hope that my proposal would be favourably received, and later in the day the Prince told me that he could make no move which could be construed in the slightest way as a recognition of an authority other than that of the Porte on his Albanian borders, but His Highness gave me his word of honour that nothing could or would induce him to endeavour to seize by force the territory which had been recently ceded to him by the Turkish Government, and he authorized me to return to Scutari and make known this declaration, when perhaps the Albanians might be led to withdraw most of their men, and thus enable the two populations to resume the agricultural pursuits which were absolutely necessary to prevent Montenegro and North Albania from being subjected to another year of scarcity and famine.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 335.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19.)

(No. 99. Political.)

Scutari, May 7, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith the copies of two notes and their inclosures, addressed to me by the Montenegrin Government on the subject of the failure of the Turkish Government to carry out the terms of the Convention of the 12th ultimo, and appealing to the Great Powers to hold the Porte responsible for the state of things produced by the shortcomings of its authorities in Albania, and to protect Montenegro from the attempt which is being made to engage it in hostilities, which will have all the gravity of a war.

As I have kept your Lordship's Department fully informed of all that has been passing here, I will not attempt to correct some inaccuracies and exaggerations contained in the notes addressed by Voïvoda Radonich to the Turkish Envoy at Cettinjé, especially as there can be no doubt that the Montenegrin Government has great reason to be irritated with the conduct of the Turkish local authorities, and as sufficient irrefutable facts remain to render its complaints well founded.

I have, &c.

(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 335.

M. Petrovich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{16}{28}$ Avril, 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

J'AI l'honneur de vous communiquer copie de trois notes que le Gouvernement Princier vient d'adresser au Ministre de Turquie au Monténégro.

Les faits exposés dans les notes du $\frac{12}{24}$ et du $\frac{13}{25}$ sont de nature à légitimer, de la part du Monténégro, les demandes que nous avons faites à la Sublime Porte, et qui font l'objet de la troisième note du $\frac{13}{25}$.

Lorsque le Monténégro voulut prendre possession du district de Gousinjé, qui lui était annexé par le Traité de Berlin, la Sublime Porte souleva une série de difficultés qu'il est inutile de rappeler ici. Mais pressé par les Puissances Signataires du Traité d'exécuter les stipulations qu'elle-même avait signées, la Sublime Porte, ayant intérêt à garder le district de Gousinjé, nous proposa, par l'intermédiaire de l'Italie, un échange territorial. Le Monténégro ne voulant pas devenir la cause de nouvelles complications, et sans s'arrêter à l'étendue des sacrifices qu'on lui demandait, accepta néanmoins la proposition. L'arrangement entre la Sublime Porte et le Monténégro eut lieu par la signature du mémorandum de Constantinople, et les Puissances ont été appelées à la sanctionner.

Le Gouvernement Princier avait pleine confiance que l'arrangement convenu serait exécuté de bonne foi. Malheureusement nous sommes revenus à une seconde question de Gousinjé.

Le Gouvernement Princier, à son grand regret, se voit donc de nouveau obligé de s'adresser aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, les priant de vouloir bien trouver moyen de contraindre la Sublime Porte à exécuter les engagements qu'elle a, pour la seconde fois, pris devant les Grandes Puissances.

Veuillez, &c.

(Pour le Ministre),

(Signé) B. PETROVICH NJEGOSCH.

Inclosure 2 in No 335.

M. Radonich to Khalid Bey.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{12}{24}$ Avril, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

SANS vouloir m'étendre sur la teneur du Protocole signé le 31 Mars dernier (v.s.) à Constantinople, dont je vous ai tout dernièrement communiqué *in extenso* le paragraphe se rapportant à la remise des positions fortifiées occupées par les troupes régulières de Sa Majesté le Sultan dans le territoire nouvellement cédé au Monténégro, je viens, d'ordre de Son Altesse le Prince Nicholas, mon auguste Maître, vous faire l'exposé de la manière avec

laquelle les autorités Impériales Ottomanes de Scutari, et notamment son Excellence le Gouverneur-Général, Izzet Pacha, et Osman Pacha, Commandant Militaire de Tousi, ont procédé à l'exécution des clauses du dit paragraphe.

D'après le texte de ce paragraphe, vingt-quatre heures avant l'évacuation les Commandants des points occupés par l'armée Impériale devaient prévenir notre Commandant Militaire de Podgoritza de l'heure précise à laquelle ils procéderaient à l'évacuation.

Or, ce n'est qu'avant-hier, 10 Avril (v.s.), jour où expirait le délai fixé pour l'évacuation, et à 8 heures et demie du matin que son Excellence Izzet Pacha, chargé par le Gouvernement Impérial de l'exécution de l'arrangement convenu, envoyant son Aide-de-camp porter au Voyvode Plamenatz, notre Commandant Militaire à Podgoritza, une lettre par laquelle il l'informait que les troupes Impériales évacueraient à 9 heures à la Turque (c'est-à-dire à 4 heures de l'après-midi) de la même journée les positions que nous devions occuper. Le Gouverneur de Scutari ne donnait ainsi que 7 heures et demie à notre armée pour occuper les points que ses troupes allaient abandonner. Ce délai était presque matériellement insuffisant pour que nos troupes, fort éloignées de la frontière, pussent arriver devant les fortifications au moment où les troupes Turques devaient les évacuer.

Le Voyvode Plamenatz protesta vivement contre cette infraction à la stipulation convenue, et demanda à entrer en pourparlers avec Osman Pacha pour tâcher au moins de régulariser l'évacuation d'une manière plus conforme à la Convention. L'Aide-de-camp d'Izzet Pacha déclara au Voyvode que tout pourparler serait inutile, car l'ordre était d'évacuer les positions à 4 heures de la même journée.

Notre Commandant, confiant dans l'ardeur de ses troupes, et ne voulant pas devenir la cause d'un retard dans l'exécution de la Convention, donna alors l'ordre à ses troupes de marcher à tout hasard. Il espérait qu'en se rapprochant des positions il y rencontrerait les troupes Impériales qui devaient, aux termes du Protocole, attendre l'heure fixée pour l'évacuation.

Vers midi ses troupes s'approchèrent des points de Dinoch, Milech, Rogama, et du Pont du Zem, qui forment la première ligne fortifiée, et s'arrêtèrent à portée de fusil de ces retranchements pour attendre l'heure fixée de l'évacuation.

Pendant ce temps tout le monde put constater la présence des nizams mêlés aux Albanais sur les positions de Rogame et Milech, et ils ne les abandonnèrent qu'au moment où ces derniers eurent pris les dispositions nécessaires pour la défense.

La tête du pont du Zem (Rzanicki-most), par laquelle le chemin unique mène aux fortifications de Chipchanik et Hum, était gardé par les Albanais, commandés par un officier de l'armée régulière Ottomane. Les autres points du Dinoch et Planitza avaient été abandonnés pendant la nuit par les troupes Impériales, et livrés aux Albanais. Ces derniers, composés de Musulmans et de Chrétiens, étaient venus en grand nombre des provinces Turques.

On reconnut plus tard également que les positions de Vrania et Hem étaient aussi occupés par les Albanais.

A 3 heures et demie les troupes Monténégrines se trouvaient échelonnées le long du Zem. Un détachement s'approcha du pont, et fut reçu à coups de fusils.

Les troupes Impériales se sont concentrées à Tousi, sous le commandement d'Osman Pacha, qui probablement aura évacué ce point à l'heure convenue.

Il ne restait donc à notre Commandant qu'à prendre d'assaut les positions qui devaient lui être régulièrement remises; or, le Voyvode Plamenatz, quand il a fait avancer ses troupes, avait compté sur la loyauté des autorités Turques, et n'avait nullement songé à cette éventualité. Il était prêt à repousser les bandes Albanaises si elles se trouvaient sur son passage, mais non à donner l'assaut à des positions fortifiées dans lesquelles les Commandants Turques avaient laissé plus d'un millier de caisses de cartouches, qui ont été distribués aux Albanais.

En présence de ces difficultés le Commandant Monténégrin donna l'ordre à ses troupes de s'arrêter et d'éviter le combat.

Ainsi la clause essentielle de la Convention n'a pas été exécutée: le pays cédé au Monténégro en échange du district de Gusinjé-Plava n'a pas été régulièrement remis au Monténégro.

Nous n'étions pas, il faut vous l'avouer, M. le Ministre, sans quelques appréhensions au sujet des intentions des Commandants Turques de l'Albanie, encore moins étions-nous rassurés sur ce qui se préparait contre nous à Scutari.

Nous connaissons l'agitation et les préparatifs qui se faisaient dans cette ville parmi les sujets Ottomans en vue d'une prise d'armes contre le Monténégro, et cela au vu et au su des autorités locales, mais n'ayant aucun droit de nous mêler des intentions de la Sublime Porte, nous étions loin de nous attendre à ce qui est arrivé. Cette agitation ne nous

donnait point d'inquiétude puisque pour en détruire le conséquences il nous suffisait de nous rendre maîtres des fortifications en question. Nous attendions patiemment la moment, ne pouvant jamais nous imaginer que la duplicité des autorités et des Généraux de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan ait pu être poussée à ce point.

Les causes de mécontentement ne nous manquaient pas depuis la signature du Protocole, et nos soupçons ont été plusieurs fois provoqués par l'attitude équivoque des autorités en Albanie. Izzet Pacha, par exemple, évitait soigneusement toute explication entre nous, malgré les prières réitérées que nous avons adressées à ce sujet à votre Excellence, malgré les lettres que vous lui écriviez sur la demande de son Altesse. Vous nous avez, en outre, communiqué officiellement la nouvelle que la Sublime Porte avait révoqué le Commandant de Tousi, Osman Pacha notoirement, comme pour avoir encouragé la résistance et la révolte parmi les Albanais; cette mesure prise par la Porte nous paraissait un symptôme rassurant et un indice de plus de la sincérité du Gouvernement Ottoman. Osman Pacha conserva néanmoins le commandement des troupes jusqu'au movement de l'évacuation et fut chargé de cette opération.

Izzet Pacha ne pouvait pas ignorer la gravité de la situation ni la portée de l'agitation qui existait sous ses yeux, et cependant, au lieu de se rendre lui-même à Tousi lors l'évacuation pour en surveiller l'exécution d'une manière conforme à la Convention, il y envoya Odo Bey, Chef de Gendarmerie au vilayet, et qui continuait d'exercer ces importantes fonctions malgré sa situation bien connue de chef de la soi-disant Ligue et de principal organisateur de tous les désordres.

Malgré ces indices nous nous sommes abstenus de toute plainte et de toute récrimination afin d'éviter d'envenimer la situation de retarder on d'embarrasser la solution définitive de la question. Il nous fallait, nous le répétons, nous rendre maîtres avant tout dans le délai fixé des positions fortifiées. Nous ne pouvions nous attendre que là précisément nous nous heurterions contre la désobéissance des Généraux aux ordres de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Nous laissons la Sublime Porte juge de la conduite et des procédés de ses fonctionnaires, et nous espérons qu'elle voudra bien rétablir nos droits lésés par la non-exécution de l'arrangement proposé par elle et accepté par le Gouvernement Princier.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 3 in No. 335.

M. Radonich to Khalid Bey.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril, 1880.

M. le Ministre,

PAR la note d'hier du $\frac{12}{24}$ j'ai eu l'honneur de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence les faits qui se sont passés le jour fixé pour l'exécution.

Par ma seconde note en date d'aujourd'hui je me suis appliqué à faire connaître la conduite des autorités Impériales de Scutari, qui ont permis non-seulement l'agitation et les préparatifs d'une guerre contre le Monténégro; mais aussi le départ de bandes armées en grandes masses envahissant le territoire de la Principauté.

L'ensemble des faits que j'ai précisés dans les deux susdites notes rendent la Sublime Porte responsable de leurs conséquences.

Le Monténégro est donc en droit d'avancer les demandes suivantes au Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte.

1. Que le Gouvernement de la Porte Ottomane exécute la clause du mémorandum de Constantinople du 31 Mars dernier (o.s.), par laquelle les troupes Monténégrines devaient entrer en possession des positions fortifiées.

2. Que le Gouvernement Monténégrin soit dédommagé de tous les frais, dépenses, et pertes faits et essuyés par la non-exécution de la clause susmentionée depuis le $\frac{19}{31}$ courant jusqu'au jour où les troupes Monténégrines ne prennent possession régulière des positions fortifiées.

3. Le Monténégro s'appuyant sur le Droit de Gens qui règle les rapports entre deux États limitrophes qui sont en paix, demande que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté le Sultan prenne de mesures sérieuses et énergiques afin d'obliger ses sujets qui se trouvent armés sur le territoire Monténégrin à rentrer dans l'Empire et d'empêcher le renouvellement d'un fait si anormal.

Veuillez, &c.

(Signé) S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 4 in No. 335.

M. Radonich to Khalid Bey.

M. le Ministre, *Cettinjé, le $\frac{13}{25}$ Avril*, 1880.

J'AI l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien attirer la sérieuse attention de la Sublime Porte sur les faits qui se produisent actuellement dans le Vilayet de Scutari, et qui sont tout-à-fait incompatibles avec l'état de paix qui existe entre la Turquie et le Monténégro.

Sans parler des manifestations et des complots qui se tramaient à grand jour à Scutari et dans le vilayet pendant les pourparlers relatifs à la transaction et qui ont fini par rendre la situation excessivement critique, grâce à la tolérance surprenante des autorités locales, nous demandons aujourd'hui au Gouvernement Impérial qu'il prenne des mesures efficaces pour mettre terme à l'organisation sur son territoire de bandes armées ouvertement dirigées contre le Monténégro.

D'après les renseignements exacts et multiples que nous recevons, confirmés par les Consuls étrangers résidant à Scutari, le nombre des combattants composant les bandes armées qui ont envahi le territoire et les retranchements abandonnés le $\frac{19}{31}$ de ce mois par les troupes Ottomanes, s'élèvent déjà à plus de 10,000 hommes. Ces bandes menacent même d'attaquer les anciennes possessions de Monténégro.

Dans ce ramassis de toute espèce de gens il n'y a pourtant que 800 à 1,000 individus appartenant au territoire nouvellement cédé à la Principauté qui peuvent être considérés par le Gouvernement Monténégrin comme des propres sujets en état d'insurrection.

Le reste de ce contingent, Musulmans ou Chrétiens Catholiques, est recruté dans les possessions de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

Je remarquerais que la population des Grudi, un des districts devant être annexé au Monténégro, refuse même aujourd'hui à se réunir aux bandes qui envahissent ce territoire, et elle vient d'envoyer à Podgoritza ses Chefs pour réclamer le secours de l'armée Monténégrine contre les envahisseurs.

Ces Chefs sont actuellement à Podgoritza et se plaignent amèrement et surtout contre des officiers de l'armée régulière Ottomane qui se trouvent dans les rangs des combattants et qui les obligent à prendre part à la lutte contre le Monténégro.

Plus en détail nous devons signaler qu'en ce moment la ville de Scutari est un vrai centre de l'organisation de la guerre contre le Monténégro. Depuis avant-hier le Bazar y est fermé, les trafiquants Monténégrins en sont expulsés. Avant-hier encore une bande de plus de 1,500 hommes, composée principalement de Musulmans, est partie de cette ville en armes et voyage pour se rendre dans les districts cédés.

Les montagnards et les villageois, sur l'appel du Comité de la Ligue, dont le siége est à Scutari, se réunissent à Kopilik, localité située à trois heures de distance du siége du Gouverneur-Général de la province.

Pour subvenir à l'entretien de ces bandes le Comité prélève des réquisitions et fait transporter sur des barques du Gouvernement et par le lac gardé par des canonières de la flotte Ottomane, les vivres et les munitions.

Le retour de Scutari pendant la nuit des $\frac{11}{23}$ au $\frac{12}{24}$ d'Osman Pacha et du Commandant de la Gendarmerie, Odo Bey, parmi les bandes réunies à Hotti, ne fait que nous confirmer davantge leur participation à la lutte organisée contre le Monténégro.

Le Général Osman Pacha chargé de la remise régulière des positions fortifiées occupées par ses troupes, les livra aux Albanais et leur laissa après son départ, qui eut lieu dans l'après-midi du $\frac{12}{24}$ courant une grande quantité de munitions et de vivres qui y étaient réunis.

Enfin Bib Doda, le Chef des Mirdites, qui jusqu'à présent ne prenaient aucune part au mouvement qui se fomentait en Albanie contre nous, vient de quitter Scutari pour se rendre dans ces Montagnes, dans le but avoué d'émeuter aussi cette tribu contre le Monténégro.

Bib Doda, retenu à Scutari depuis longtemps, ne pouvait quitter cette localité sans l'autorisation speciale du Gouverneur-Général du vilayet.

Les faits qui précèdent se passent sous les yeux des autorités locales sans qu'elles prennent aucune mesure pour les prévenir.

L'indifférence avec laquelle elles envisagent ce qui se fait autour d'eux, équivaudrait, quand même il n'y aurait pas d'autres preuves ou indices contre leur loyauté, à la complicité.

La Turquie dispose cependant d'une armée régulière et des moyens suffisants pour empêcher que le siége du Gouvernement d'une de ses provinces ne continue à être le foyer d'une organisation armée hostile au pays voisin.

Le Gouvernement Princier espère que la Sublime Porte n'abdiquera pas son autorité en Albanie et qu'elle ne recusera pas ses qualités de Puissance Européenne.

Dans ce cas nous avons tout le droit de lui demander d'assumer la responsabilité de ce qui se passe dans ce sandjak, de mettre fin par des moyens prompts et énergiques à l'organisation d'une lutte en règle, dirigée par ses propres sujets contre le pays voisin et de réparer dans le plus bref delai les dommages causés au Monténégro par ces infractions ouvertes et sans exemple à tous les usages du Droit des Gens.

Le Gouvernement Princier aime à croire que la Sublime Porte saura aussi imposer sa volonté à ses fonctionnaires dans cette province—Gouverneur-Général, Généraux, et officiers—qui manquent ouvertement et incontestablement à leurs devoirs qui la compromettent vis-à-vis d'un Etat voisin et se rendent coupables de faiblesse on de connivence avec les organisateurs des bandes, avec les gens qui dans tous les pays civilisés seraient considérées comme étant hors la loi.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) S. RADONICH.

Inclosure 5 in No. 335.

M. Petrovich to Mr. Kirby Green.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril,* 1880.

M. le Chargé d'Affaires,

CI-JOINT j'ai l'honneur de vous envoyer copie de la dernière protestation en date d'aujourd'hui, que je viens de transmettre à l'Envoyé de Sa Majesté le Sultan en le priant de la faire parvenir le plutôt possible à son Gouvernement.

Vous voudriez bien, M. le Chargé d'Affaires, reconnaître d'après ce document que les événements prennent une gravité incontestable, et que le désordre dans notre voisinage est arrivé à son comble.

Il semble que notre modération et nos efforts à vouloir conserver la paix deviennent inutiles.

En effet, les bandes Albanaises de plus en plus aidées et encouragées par les autorités de Scutari, ne veulent voir dans cette modération qu'un signe de faiblesse de notre part.

Nous nous voyons à la veille d'une de ces guerres où l'on ne connaît pas le nom de ses ennemis. Nous resterons sur la défensive, mais nous avons tout lieu de croire que les provinces de Sa Majesté le Sultan prendront l'initiative des hostilités, décidées dans un but que nous ignorons, à nous provoquer à des conflits, à la guerre même.

On nous croit isolés en ce moment et on veut en profiter.

Nous en appelons à la justice des Gouvernements qui ont signé le Traité de Paix, et nous espérons qu'ils trouveront le moyen de faire cesser cet état de choses, de préserver le Monténégro, dont ils ont tracé les frontières, de la plus inique, de la plus unqualifiable des persécutions.

Nous espérons que les subterfuges diplomatiques et les faux-fuyants n'empêcheront pas les Puissances de rendre la Porte responsable de cet état de choses quel que soit son origine ou son but, et qu'elles finiront par la contraindre à faire cesser cette situation qui devient intolérable et qui pourrait même avoir les conséquences les plus graves au point de vue de la paix dans la Péninsule Balkanique.

Agréez, &c.
(Pour le Ministre),
(Signé) B. PETROVICH NJEGOSCH.

Inclosure 6 in No. 335.

M. Radonich to Khalid Bey.

Cettinjé, le $\frac{14}{26}$ *Avril,* 1880.

M. le Ministre,

UNE guerre ouverte s'organise dans le Vilayet de Scutari contre le Monténégro, et les fonctionnaires du Gouvernement encouragent et soutiennent cette organisation. Nos renseignements là-dessus sont certains.

Dans la ville aussi bien que dans la province les employés et les Bouluk-Bachis forcent les gens de rejoindre les bandes déjà réunies.

Prenk Bib Doda est parti pour la Miridithie avec charge avouée de faire prendre part à ce peuple à la campagne contre nous.

On attend sous peu à Scutari les bandes de Kroya et de Tirana; on invite les gens de Dibra et de Mat, et on espère dans leur secours.

Les bandes continuent à marcher sur Hotti, dans le territoire cédé au Monténégro.

Les Nisams n'ont pas quitté antérieurement ce territoire. Trois compagnies seulement ont été retirées de Tousi, et se tiennent actuellement à Kastrati, sur le chemin de Scutari. Tout le reste est dans le territoire qui devait être évacué, et fait cause commune avec les bandes.

Les fortifications ont été abandonnées aux bandes, avec leurs approvisionnements, les munitions, et même la plupart des canons, deux seulement ayant été rapportés à Scutari.

Les soldats restés à Tousi, et principalement les canonniers changent leurs uniformes contre l'habit des montagnards Albanais.

La soi-disant Ligue Albanaise à Scutari fait les commandes de vivres à Trieste, et les transporte sur des barques du Gouvernement même à Hum. Elle loue enfin, à raison de 5 napoléons d'or par jour, un bateau à vapeur, qui est aussi affecté au maintien de la communication entre Scutari et le territoire au pouvoir des bandes.

Les faits suivants ôtent le dernier doute qu'on aurait voulu accorder à la portée des intentions réelles de l'organisation sus-mentionnée, et donnent à la situation une gravité capitale.

En vertu de l'Article XXIX du Protocole de Berlin, le Monténégro transportait par la Bojana les marchandises dont il avait besoin. Cette liberté vient de lui être enlevée, les barques sur lesquelles nous faisions transporter le sel pour notre pays ayant été obligées hier de rebrousser chemin, avec injonction de ne plus paraître dans les eaux de Scutari.

Cette infraction à nos droits les plus légitimes a été immédiatement suivie d'une autre d'un intérêt beaucoup plus grave. D'ordre de son Valy, le Bouluk-Bachi de Scutari est venu dans la partie de la Kraïna nous appartenant depuis le Congrès de Berlin pour y prêcher la révolte, et en emmener les Chefs à Scutari afin de les aboucher avec les bandes organisées.

Nous laissons à l'appréciation du Gouvernement Ottoman la portée de pareils procédés, aussi bien que les conséquences qui s'en suivront pour les pauvres gens de la Kraïna.

Enfin on nous rapporte que le Gouverneur de Scutari doit partir pour Tirana ou pour Kastrati.

Nous ne connaissons pas la raison de ce départ projeté par Valy Pacha, mais il n'y a pas de doute que son absence de Scutari deviendra pour lui un prétexte pour se libérer de la responsabilité de ce qui se passera alors dans cette capitale de la province, qui certainement sera livrée, dans ce cas, sans plus de ménagement ni de décorum, entre les mains de la soi-disant Ligue.

Nous prions le Gouvernement Ottoman de nous expliquer ces faits, et de nous dire quelles sont les autorités avec lesquelles nous devons compter sur notre frontière du côté du Vilayet de Scutari. La flagrante participation des autorités, les extraordinaires facilités accordées à l'agitation, rendent la situation extrêmement critique, et nous ne pouvons plus rester dans le doute au sujet des vraies intentions de la Sublime Porte à notre égard.

La participation de l'Administration locale à l'agitation confond à nos yeux complétement les visées inqualifiables de la soi-disant Ligue avec les intentions des autorités légales du pays. Nous ne pouvons plus distinguer entre elles.

Je prie votre Excellence de porter au plus vite à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan nos griefs et nos demandes, afin que nous puissions savoir si décidément les provinces de Sa Majesté ont l'intention de nous faire la guerre, malgré la modération dont nous avons fait preuve depuis le commencement de ces événements.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) S. RADONICH.

No. 336.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 19, 6·40 P.M.)

(No. 72.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 19, 1880, 4·16 P.M.

YOUR Lordship's despatch No. 192.

Russian Government agree to your Lordship's proposal. They consider that as the execution of the Treaty of Berlin respecting the Turco-Greek frontier is concerned, that

capital would be the best to hold the Conference at, and that the same Conference should take into consideration the necessity of assuring the execution of the Treaty on all the points about which the Porte does not give a satisfactory answer to the collective wish of the Great Powers, conformably to the decisions that they may have agreed upon together.

The Russian Government considers such manifestation the more opportune as the application of the tracing adopted by the majority for the Turco-Greek delimitation would be exposed to the same obstacles as those opposed by the Albanians to the execution of the Turco-Montenegrin Memorandum.

No. 337.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 239.)

Foreign Office, May 19, 1880.

Sir,

I APPROVE the language used by your Excellency to the Roumanian Minister as reported in your despatch No. 230 of the 13th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 338.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 1. Very Confidential.)

Paris, May 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had an interview this morning with M. de Freycinet. Lord Lyons presented me, and was present during the interview.

M. de Freycinet commenced the conversation by inquiries as to the nature of my mission, and appeared anxious to receive my assurance that Her Majesty's Government entertained no special intentions with regard to proposals on the subject of Turkish finance when they resolved on my appointment as Special Ambassador to the Porte.

The instructions I had received from your Lordship enabled me to reassure him completely on this point. At the same time I availed myself of this opportunity to state, with reference to the Financial Commission contemplated in the 18th Protocol of the Berlin Conference, and mentioned in my instructions, that, if it should be constituted, it should deal primarily with the question of the resources of the Turkish Empire before considering any proposals for dealing with the Turkish debt, and that the actual state of Turkey was far too serious for it to be possible that the Powers should press forward suggestions for a settlement of that debt at the present time.

M. de Freycinet expressed his decided concurrence with this view.

I then stated that the special objects of my mission were practically the same as those embodied in your Lordship's Circular of the 4th instant, which had been communicated to the French Government, namely, to insist, in concert with the other Powers, upon the fulfilment of the engagements into which the Porte has entered with regard to Greece and Montenegro, and of the pledges for reform in Armenia.

On this M. de Freycinet informed me that the French Government had directed M. Tissot, now French Minister in Greece, to proceed immediately to Constantinople, and to place himself, *ad interim*, at the head of their Embassy there. He expressed himself in the most cordial terms as to the desire of the French Government that I should find in M. Tissot a colleague who would work with me in complete harmony. Several times during the interview M. de Freycinet repeated his desire of acting in cordial concert with Her Majesty's Government, and his conviction that the policy of England and France at Constantinople would be conducted in entire accord.

The discussion then turned on the separate questions now under consideration.

With regard to Montenegro, M. de Freycinet stated very frankly that he was unable to see any way out of the difficulty, and apparently he had no suggestion of any kind to make.

With regard to Greece he spoke more fully. His observations were in the first place directed to the view taken by the French Government, and communicated to your Lordship by Lord Lyons, that the Conference of Ambassadors proposed by your Lordship to

determine the frontier question should meet without waiting for the assent of Turkey.

I then asked some questions as to the views of the French Government of the course to be adopted when the proposed Conference, if it should take place, should have arrived at some definite conclusion.

M. de Freycinet expressed his conviction that the Porte would accept a decision pressed upon them by the six Powers, and drew a distinction between the case of the Montenegrin frontier, where the Turks were asked to reoccupy positions, and, if necessary, to fire upon their own subjects, and that of the Greek frontier, where all they would be asked to do was to withdraw. He suggested that the Turks would simply retire within the new frontier, and that the Greeks must then themselves take the matter in hand, and occupy their new acquisition by force of arms if necessary. He did not seem to me to contemplate any active interference on the part of the Powers to enforce their decision, for he said, "The line of frontier will have been drawn, and it ought to be drawn."

On reference being made to the possibility of a similar difficulty arising in the case of the Greek frontier to what has happened in the case of Montenegro, namely, that the Albanians, if transferred to Greece, might offer military resistance, he admitted that care must be taken in drawing the new line so as to avoid such a contingency, but did not appear to me to be so much impressed with the gravity of such a risk as are Her Majesty's Government, his idea apparently being that the parties must fight it out amongst themselves. On the other hand, he used expressions which showed the very great interest taken by the French Government in Janina being assigned to Greece in the new arrangement.

To the Armenian question M. de Freycinet seemed thus far to have given no attention though he informed Lord Lyons and myself, when we recalled the LXXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin to his mind, and spoke of the deplorable anarchy and loss of life through famine, now so prevalent in those regions, that he had also received despatches giving lamentable accounts of misery and starvation in the Asiatic dominions of the Porte.

On my dwelling on the collective responsibility of Europe arising from the Article of the Treaty to which they had been parties, he admitted it fully, and promised French co-operation, but I received the impression that no very energetic support could be expected.

M. de Freycinet spoke of the difficulties in European Turkey as acute ("aigues"). In the case of Armenia he apparently felt the difficulties, while politically less dangerous, to be also more hopeless to deal with.

At the close of the interview I expressed to M. de Freycinet the strong wish and intention entertained by Her Majesty's Government to put an end, if possible, to the interminable delays which have surrounded the execution of the promises made by the Porte, and that it was in the interest of Turkey itself that these burning questions should be settled.

M. de Freycinet replied that the French Government quite shared this desire, and would support Her Majesty's Government energetically in their efforts to bring about as early a solution as possible. It was clear to me that his Excellency was strongly impressed with the advantage and even the necessity of this policy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 339.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 397.)

Paris, May 19, 1880.

My Lord,

MR. GOSCHEN arrived at Paris yesterday morning, and he proceeds this evening on his way to Vienna.

His Excellency had this morning an interview with M. de Freycinet, at which I was present. He has communicated to me under flying seal the inclosed despatch, in which he has reported to your Lordship what passed. I have nothing to add to it.

Your Lordship will perceive that M. de Freycinet informed Mr. Goschen and me that he had sent by telegraph to M. Tissot, the French Minister at Athens, instructions to go at once direct to Constantinople in order to place himself, *ad interim*, at the head of the French Embassy there.

I have, &c.

(Signed) LYONS.

No. 340.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 20.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.)
Vienna, May 20, 1880.

BARON HAYMERLE agrees that the wording of the note to be sent to the Porte should be arranged by the Representatives at Constantinople on the basis of your Lordship's proposal.

No. 340*.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 101.)
(Telegraphic.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 236 of the 14th, you may state to Baron Haymerle that Her Majesty's Government will be ready to enter into an unreserved exchange of views with the Austrian Government on matters relating to Balkan Peninsula.

No. 341.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 324.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the terms of the representation your Excellency addressed to the Sublime Porte on the 30th ultimo, and of which you inclose a copy in your despatch No. 474 of the same date, relative to the deplorable state of affairs in the district of Prisrend, as depicted by Mr. St. John in his despatches from that place.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 342.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 326.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 487 of the 4th instant, reporting the proceedings which took place at a meeting of the Heads of Missions at Constantinople on the 3rd instant, with reference to the course of action to be adopted consequent on the answer of Sawas Pasha to the identic note which had been presented to the Porte by the Representatives of the Powers, with respect to the reoccupation of the positions ceded to Montenegro by the Turks.

Your Excellency likewise incloses copy of a collective note which was addressed to Sawas Pasha by yourself and your colleagues, asking for a categorical answer as to the intentions of the Porte in regard to the reoccupation of the ceded territory.

I have to inform your Excellency, in reply, that Her Majesty's Government approve the terms of this note, as well as your proceedings in this matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 343.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 327.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language adopted by your Excellency at your audience of the Sultan on the 1st instant, as reported in your Excellency's despatch No. 482, Very Confidential, of the 2nd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 344.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 330.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency will have received a copy of a despatch marked No. 30, Political, of the 27th March, addressed to Lord Salisbury from Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend, inclosing a list of Christians assassinated or wounded in the district of Ipek during the years 1877-8-9, and I should wish your Excellency to take an opportunity of calling the attention of the Porte to this very discreditable state of public security.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 345.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 331.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 454 of the 25th ultimo relative to the alleged violation by the Turkish authorities at Scutari of the formal agreement entered into between the Montenegrin Chargé d'Affaires at Constantinople and the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs for the surrender of the territory ceded by the Sultan to Montenegro in exchange for Gusinjé.

I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government approve your proceedings in this matter, as reported in your despatch above mentioned, as well as the terms of the *note verbale* which was addressed to the Porte by you and your colleagues, of which a copy is inclosed therein.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 346.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 7.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government have been informed by Sir H. Layard that the Sultan contemplates reassembling the Turkish Parliament at Constantinople.

Although at the first meeting of the Turkish Parliament there may have been various matters which required alteration and improvement in its constitution, composition, and proceedings, Her Majesty's Government cannot help considering that the principle of a Parliament fairly representing all classes of the subjects of the Turkish Empire is a good one, and they would desire that your Excellency should use your influence to encourage the Sultan to summon the Parliament, should he hesitate to do so, and to allow freedom of debate.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 347.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 545.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

My Lord,

COUNT DE MONTEBELLO called upon me this afternoon, and told me that his Government were not favourable to the suggestion which was mentioned to me by Count Münster, and which I had repeated to M. Léon Say, as recorded in my despatch to your Excellency No. 522 of the 18th instant, that the Porte should have the option of taking part in the Conference to be held at Berlin on the question of the Greek frontier.

I stated, in reply, that I should not press this point, as it was against the wish of the French Government.

Count de Montebello again pressed upon me the reasons advanced by his Govern-

ment for avoiding further delay in the meeting of this Conference, and urged that it should be proposed at once to the Porte, and not mentioned merely as a possible alternative to the other and previous plan for an examination of the question upon the spot.

I told Count de Montebello that I would consider whether a proposal could be made to the other Powers to alter the identic note, which is to be presented to the Porte in accordance with the terms of my despatch of the 4th instant, in the sense desired by his Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 348.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 245. Confidential.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE instructed your Excellency to-day by telegraph to inform Baron Haymerle, with reference to his language reported in your despatch No. 236 of the 14th instant, that Her Majesty's Government will be prepared to enter into an unreserved exchange of views with the Government of Austria-Hungary upon matters relating to the Balkan Peninsular to which the attention of the two Governments may be drawn.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 349.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 8.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

My Lord,

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which you employed to Musurus Pasha on the subject of the Eastern Roumelian Commission in the conversation which you had with his Excellency, as reported in your despatch No. 4 of the 12th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 350.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(No. 56.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of a note from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to the Turkish Ambassador in London, respecting acts of pillage committed on Mussulmans in Bulgaria consequent on the execution of a Decree and a Règlement promulgated by the Bulgarian Government and dated the 1st/13th February, 1879, and inclosing copy of a protest addressed by his Excellency on this subject to the Bulgarian Representative at Constantinople.

I have to request that you will return a report to me on the statements contained in the inclosed documents.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 351.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 31.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, inclosing copy of the instructions sent by the Porte to the Governor of Scutari, on the subject of the Montenegrin Frontier negotiations, and I request that you will inform me whether an Agent from the Italian or any other Consulate accompanied the troops to see to the proper carrying out of the evacuation, and to the strict observance of the twenty-four hours' notice as indicated in these instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 352.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 32.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 81 of the 27th ultimo, and I have to state to you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language employed by you in an interview you had, as reported in that despatch, with some Roman Catholic gentlemen of Scutari, who are taking a leading part in the resistance to the cession of Albanian territory to Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 353.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 33.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

IN your despatch No. 85 of the 30th ultimo you inform me that, in consequence of the action taken by the Albanian League in prohibiting the use of the River Boyana by the Montenegrins, eight vessels from the Port of Dulcigno loaded with salt for Ricka and other Montenegrin localities on Lake Scutari, have been compelled to remain unloaded at the landing of Obotti. I have to state to you in reply that your proceedings in bringing the matter under the notice of Izzet Pasha, and pointing out to him the serious responsibility he is incurring by permitting such an usurpation of authority on the part of the League, have the approval of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 354.

Earl Granville to Consul St. John.

(No. 5.)
Foreign Office, May 20, 1880.

Sir,

HER Majesty's Government approve the note which you addressed to Ghazi Moukhtar Pasha, the Vali of the Vilayet of Monastir, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 55, Political, of the 26th ultimo, relative to the illegal arrest and exile of the Orthodox Greek School-Master of Prisrend.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 355.

Earl Granville to Consul St. John.

(No. 6.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 20, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government approve the remonstrances you made to Ahmed Pasha, the Mutessarif at Prisrend, as reported in your despatch No. 49 of the 19th ultimo, relative to the insult offered to your Russian colleague by a band of assassins and three zaptiehs.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 356.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 53. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for the information of your Lordship, copy of a despatch, with its inclosure, which I have this day addressed to Sir Henry Layard, having reference to the efforts made by the Ottoman authorities for the suppression of brigandage in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 356.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir A. H. Layard.

Sir, *Salonica, May* 11, 1880.

I HAVE the satisfaction to report to your Excellency that the last three weeks have been marked by the destruction of several brigands in the direction of Serres, Drama, Nevrocop, and Demir-Hissar; and by the breaking up or dispersion of armed bands, which were assuming formidable dimensions and causing considerable disquietude to the country people.

In the south of Macedonia no act of brigandage has been committed within the last fortnight; most of the bands, including that of the notorious Nicko, which, till lately, devastated the districts of Caraferia and Catterina, have retired to their fastnesses in Mount Olympus.

Of the bands destroyed in the Sandjak of Serres, the most important, I am told by Abeddin Pasha, was that of the Chief Kotcho Lotto, composed of twenty-three Bulgarians. It was tracked by the military to a ravine called "Yuruk Yaïlar," between the districts of Demir-Hissar and Nevrocop, and there suddenly surrounded and exterminated. Five Christian and Mahommedan hostages carried off by them a few days previously from the village of Berin were released.

Of the military two were killed and one wounded.

Documents were found on the body of the Chief Kotcho Lotto which prove, I am assured, that he was employed by an insurrectionary Committee to foment disturbances on this side of the Bulgarian border. Among these documents—the originals of which were sent to the Porte by yesterday's mail—there were six copies of a memorial from the Bulgarian inhabitants of Macedonia, drawn up in very good French, and addressed to the Representatives of the Great Powers at Constantinople, praying that their province should be incorporated in Bulgaria or in Eastern Roumelia, and it would seem that Kotcho Lotto was entrusted to obtain signatures to these memorials from the Bulgarian villages.

Altogether some 36 brigands have been killed and 12 captured by the military and police in the Sandjak of Serres since the 18th April last. Of the former 34 were Bulgarians, 2 Albanians, and 1 Greek; and of the latter, 8 Bulgarians, 2 Albanians, and 2 Greeks.

There is no doubt that the Governor-General, Abeddin Pasha, and the Military Commander, Assaf Pasha, are making very laudable exertions to extirpate brigandage and introduce security in this province.

The success, however, of these exertions depends in a great measure on the co-

operation of the Bulgarian border authorities, and without cordial assistance from that direction it is hopeless to expect any permanent satisfactory change in the situation of affairs in Macedonia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

P.S.—I inclose an English translation from the Turkish into which the original memorial referred to in the above despatch was translated by the authorities here.

J. E. B.

Inclosure 2 in No. 356.

Literal Translation of a Letter and Petition from the Insurrectionary Committee of Macedonia.

The Insurrectionary Committee of Macedonia,
Dear Sir, *No.* 39, *March* 25, 1880, *Mt. Perin.*

KNOWING your kind feelings towards the Bulgarians, we beg you to present the inclosed petitions, Nos. 33, 34, 35, 36, 37, and 38, to the Embassies of all the European Powers at Constantinople.

(Signed) We the Voivodes on the Insurrectionary Committee of Macedonia.

Circular to the Embassies of the Powers.

Excellence,

"The people of all Macedonia, who for five centuries have been under an insupportable yoke, behold an amount of tyranny and oppression on the part of the ruling class which is beyond description. As was the case in Rumili generally before, we, like our brethren now, suffered much injustice and oppression. For neither our honour, nor our families, nor our commerce (trade), nor our lives were safe; but as it was a shame for us to live in such torment, we hoped that the States of Europe would turn their attention towards us, and would save us from such torture. However, they have disappointed our expectations and opinions. The Plenipotentiaries of all the Powers formed a Conference at Constantinople, and decided to redress our grievances by a stroke of the pen. To our sorrow the Sublime Porte did not respect or listen to the decision of the Conference. For it is the duty of the Sublime Porte to leave all Christians in oppression. Shortly after this the magnanimous Russian Government, by the decision of all the Powers, declared war in 1877 and 1878, demanding from the Porte that there should be equality in every province. Decisions, which we shall hereafter mention, were come to concerning the Bulgarians; a part of Bulgaria was made a Principality, under the Porte's protection, with the name of West Bulgaria. The Berlin Congress also gave autonomy to another part under the name of Eastern Roumelia. To our unfortunate Macedonia the Congress, by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty, granted some Regulations. This decision had the effect of striking the Bulgarians of Macedonia with lightning; then, as they do not accept the decisions given by Europeans, our people invited us to take up arms for union with Eastern Roumelia. Our duty is to listen to the voice of our people, and by the force of arms, which up to now we have not laid aside, and which we shall not lay down, we shall demand our union with Eastern Roumelia; and should this be impossible, Regulations for Macedonia like those in Eastern Roumelia, and the appointment of a Christian Vali, favourably approved by all the European Powers, by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan. We beg you to present this petition to your Government.

(Signed) The Insurrectionary Party in Macedonia.

No. 357.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 21.)

(No. 54. Political.)
My Lord, *Salonica, May* 12, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Michell's despatch No. 97 of the 29th February, marked Confidential, and inclosing an extract of a letter relative to the demand of the Protestants

of Bansko, in Macedonia, for a separate community, copy of which was inclosed in Lord Tenterden's despatch of the 8th ultimo, I have the honour to report that on my mentioning the matter to Abedin Pasha, the Vali of Salonica, his Excellency expressed his readiness to give instructions to the new Mutessarif of Serres, Emin Bey, to whose jurisdiction Raslog and Bansko belong, to ascertain why the order sent to the local Mudir from Constantinople for the formation of a separate community was not carried out. I shall continue to give my attention to this question.

I should add that the Protestants of Bansko and the Bulgarian Protestants in general, as I know by experience, take no part whatsoever in agitation against the authority of his Imperial Majesty the Sultan, and, on that account, I entirely agree with Mr. Consul-General Michell in thinking that it would be politic on the part of the Ottoman authorities to grant their request for a separate community.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 358.

M. de Giers to Prince Lobanow.—(*Communicated to Earl Granville by Prince Lobanow, May* 21.

St. Pétersbourg, le $\frac{7}{19}$ *Mai*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

NOUS télégraphions à notre Ambassadeur a Constantinople:—

"Relativement à la délimitation Grecque, le Cabinet de Londres nous a proposé d'insérer dans la note collective a adresser à la Porte l'alternative suivante: ou bien, d'envoyer sur les lieux une Commission Internationale, ou bien, si la Porte y objecte et ne donne pas de réponse définitive jusqu'à la mi-Juin, de réunir à Paris ou à Berlin une Conférence qui déciderait le tracé à la majorité des voix.

"Nous adhérons à cette proposition, et nous indiquons Berlin.

"Nous consentons également à ce qu'une note identique paraphrasant la Circulaire Anglaise soit rédigée d'un commun accord par les Ambassadeurs à Constantinople; mais, afin de gagner du temps, nous désirons, de même que le Cabinet de Vienne, qu'elle contienne une phrase plus accentuée au sujet de l'affaire du Monténégro."

Veuillez communiquer ce qui précède à Lord Granville.

No. 359.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 60.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 20, 1880.

AUSTRIAN Government agree that the alternative proposal suggested in your despatch No. 223 shall be inserted in the note to be addressed to the Porte, and Count Károlyi is being instructed to notify this acceptance to your Lordship.

No. 360.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.)

Vienna, May 20, 1880.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 201 of the 11th instant, Marquis of Menabrea will be instructed to announce acceptance by Italian Government of alternative proposal for Conference to meet at Berlin or Paris for settlement of Greek frontier being comprised in joint representation to be addressed to the Porte by the Powers.

No. 361.

Mr. R. Thomson to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 21.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.)

Tehran, May 21, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 42.

The Minister for Foreign Affairs has informed me that he will send instructions by telegraph this evening to the Persian Ambassador at Constantinople to suspend the Consul at Jeddah pending investigation, and to appoint Commissioner for that purpose at once.

No. 362.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 202.)
My Lord,

Foreign Office, May 21, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government have considered the proposal of the Russian Government, contained in your telegram No. 72 of the 19th May, that the proposed Conference on the Turco-Greek frontier should also take into its consideration the necessity of settling other points with regard to which the Porte has not conformed to the decisions arrived at by the Powers. In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, it would be preferable first to deal with the Greek frontier, and should that question be satisfactorily settled, it might then be matter for consideration whether the terms of the reference to the Conference might not be further enlarged; but on this point Her Majesty's Government wish to reserve their opinion for the present.

Your Excellency should inform the Russian Government of the view which Her Majesty's Government take of their suggestion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 363.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 56. Political.)
My Lord,

Prisrend, May 1, 1880.

A TURK who had served his Government thirty-six years called on me a few days ago to thank me for some service I had occasion to render him.

As, during our conversation, he complained bitterly of the present state of affairs here, I availed myself of the opportunity to elicit what were the views he held on the subject, and what, in his opinion, ought to be done to remedy them.

He assured me that if the Government were seriously in earnest no difficulties would exist in putting a stop to the wholesale massacres and robberies that are now going on. To send a large force of troops, he said, might do more harm than good, as in the present excited state of public opinion the Albanians, who have been plentifully supplied with arms and ammunition by the Government, would, were such a course to be adopted, unite and repel any pressure that might be brought to bear upon them. But if the Government were willing to establish order, positive instructions to all the officials would suffice to produce the desired effect; and due punishment inflicted on miscreants, far from creating an alarm, which the presence of a large force of troops might bring about, would be viewed with the greatest satisfaction by and have the approval of the majority of the population.

As the lamentable state of the country in general, and more particularly that of the Christian subjects of the Sultan, must sooner or later engage the serious attention of the Great Powers, I have thought it expedient to convey to your Lordship the opinion expressed by a person of so much experience as the Turk alluded to; but, nevertheless, I maintain that, were the Government compelled to adopt and carry out so simple and legitimate a measure, the presence of a certain amount of troops would be indispensable in the event of the local authorities requiring assistance to punish, for instance, a village, or, may be, a whole district.

To satisfy Europe, however, it would be necessary for the Turkish Government to act, not as hitherto, but in good faith, and to employ for such a purpose a far different stamp of man to Ghazi Mukhtar Pasha.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 364.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 57. Political.)
Prisrend, May 5, 1880.

My Lord,

DURING the last two years the Turkish Government has afforded relief to the most indigent among the refugees from Bulgaria, Servia, and Montenegro; but for some time past, owing to its impecuniosity, all assistance has ceased, and thousands of Mussulman women and children have thereby been reduced to the most abject state of misery.

Many of them have died from starvation, as the greater portion taste food once only in two or three days.

On my return from Constantinople in February last I observed that provisions were gradually increasing to famine prices, and that the poor of all denominations must necessarily be the principal sufferers. I therefore set aside a small portion of my salary, and once a week gave relief to such as presented themselves at my door, both Mussulmans and Christians. In a short time, however, the number of these applicants increased so formidably, and the scenes I witnessed became so distressing, that I was compelled to telegraph to Sir Henry Layard for assistance. His Excellency at once offered 50*l.*, and the Secretary of Embassy 10*l.*

With the prospect of these contributions I telegraphed to Salonica for flour, until the arrival of which bread has and will be issued to 200 persons a week.

But my very limited resources can at the present rate only last a few weeks, and I therefore venture to submit to your Lordship the extreme necessity for further means of relief.

During the first few days the clamour from the hungry became so great, and their attitude so threatening, that my cavasses had to close the house door. Since then the local authorities, at my request, have appointed a Committee, whose duty it is to find out the most indigent, and to distribute tickets signed by me, the possessors of which only are admitted.

This system now works most satisfactorily, and I find myself relieved from all the heartrending scenes to which I was at one time a witness.

Many of the male refugees are now at the frontier, with the object of returning, if possible, to their former homes, in accordance with conditions of the Treaty of Berlin; but a hitch existing somewhere, the refugees seem reluctant to return; and, besides, having themselves to endure great hardships, cause the utmost inconvenience and misery to the Christian population, on whom they are billeted free of expense.

As many of them have now resorted to brigandage, to which the Christians, being unarmed, fall easy victims, it is much to be desired that this state of things should cease, and that the Mussulman refugees should be enabled to return to take possession of, or, if preferable, to sell, at a reasonable price, their former homes. But the Servian Government, from what I hear, being unable to buy them off, has left the purchasing in the hands of a set of speculators, who, having the monopoly, offer as little as 1 to 5 per cent. of the real value, and, besides, take up so threatening an attitude towards the repatriated Mussulmans, that these, loth to remain, realize for what they can get, and hasten to recross the frontier into Turkey.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 365.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 96. Political. Confidential.)
Cettinjé, May 6, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE been informed that considerable irritation has been secretly felt by the Prince and his Government at the reply given by the Italian Chargé d'Affaires to their remonstrances at the bad faith of the Porte in the matter of the Convention of the 12th ultimo.

M. Durando has stated that the Italian Government, having brought to a satisfactory conclusion all the diplomatic formalities required by the recent mediation, and having furnished Montenegro with properly executed titles to the ceded territory, it now only

remains necessary for the Principality to employ force to enter into possession of its newly-acquired frontier.

The Montenegrin Government feels that the arrangement was proposed to it for the purpose of avoiding hostilities, and not to legalize a war against a fraction of the North Albanians.

In some quarters it is now recollected that the Italian Consular Agents in these regions have always advocated the development of Albania into an autonomous province, and it is observed that the only result of Italian interference in the present instance has been to promote, in a most remarkable manner, the sentiment of nationality among a people who hardly possessed it before.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 366.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 102. Political.)
Scutari, May 9, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that four battalions of Nizams arrived in North Albania on the 7th instant by the Turkish transport "Babel," two having been embarked at Constantinople and two at Smyrna.

This brigade is under the command of Major-General Hadji Osman Pasha, who, when a Colonel, effected the quiet surrender of Spuz and Podgoritza to the Montenegrins. He is an officer of great experience in Albanian affairs, of undoubted courage, and capable of executing orders from the Porte even should they clash with local feeling.

The Major-General Hadji Osman Pasha, who recently evacuated the newly ceded positions near Podgoritza, is also here, and, although equally a brave officer, there can be no doubt that, whether with or without instructions, he has been actively engaged in fomenting the Albanian agitation against Montenegro.

Three of the new battalions have been brought to Scutari, and the remaining one sent to garrison Dulcigno.

I am informed by persons connected with the Albanian League, that the arrival of however large a force of regular troops can in no way alarm the natives, as they have reason to know that the Sultan will never permit his soldiers to be used against the Arnouts. They say that, on the contrary, more numerous the Turkish troops are here the more easy it becomes to provide arms and provisions for the Albanian contingents.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 367.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 103. Political.)
Scutari, May 10, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that yesterday two Roman Catholic gentlemen of this town, and who are influential members of the league formed to resist all cessions of Albanian territory to Montenegro, called on me and requested me to advise them as to the course they ought to follow in the present complication with the Principality.

They stated that the maintenance of a large Albanian force, and which was daily augmenting, was becoming a most serious charge on the inhabitants of Scutari; and they wished to know whether there was no exit from the dead-lock which had been reached by North Albania and Montenegro.

I replied to my visitors that I could only repeat what I had frequently before told them. The responsibility of the existing situation must rest entirely with the North Albanians as long as they maintain that their action has been spontaneous. They had seen that the assurance I had given them that Prince Nicholas would not permit his troops to take forcible possession of the positions ceded to him if the slightest symptom of Albanian resistance became apparent, had proved correct; and now I had to make known to them the further determination of the Prince not to move a single Montenegrin soldier

forward until the Sultan's Commanders were in a position to deliver over to him the conceded territory in a formal and peaceable manner. His Highness had authorized me to publish this decision to the North Albanians, as he was aware that the withdrawal of so many men at this season from agricultural pursuits was as injurious for the Arnaouts as for the Montenegrins; and, perhaps, the knowledge that the solution of the present question still depended on the conduct of the Porte might reassure the Albanians sufficiently to make them moderate their aggressive attitude, and thus permit the two countries to await quietly the decisions of their Governments.

My visitors wished to know if I could engage that Prince Nicholas would not depart from his promises as soon as he perceived the Albanians had reduced their force on the frontier. The Roman Catholics in Scutari had joined the National League on the distinct understanding that the North Albanians should only defend the frontier traced in the Treaty of Berlin, and, provided they could hold a valid assurance that that line would not, for the moment, be overstepped, they would insist on the reduction of the force gathered at Towzi.

I said I had no doubt, if I was enabled to inform Prince Nicholas that the Albanians only awaited a confirmation of his declaration of remaining on the defensive to reduce their numbers on the frontier, His Highness would immediately repeat to me his assurances in a manner which would be found sufficient by all parties.

The two Albanian gentlemen withdrew telling me that they would call a meeting of their Committee, and urge the acceptance of their views. They admitted that the Mohammedan element was evidently bent on bringing about a conflict, but, as the Christians were in the majority, and could, in honour, retire from the League if it was proposed to overstep the Berlin frontier-line, they felt that their counsels could only be disregarded if the Roman Catholic mountaineers voted with the Mussulmans.

To-day a message has been sent to me that an unfavourable decision was come to at a meeting held this morning. It has been deemed better to provoke open hostilities with Montenegro and to put to test the strength of the two countries rather than disband the contingents of volunteers, which probably could with difficulty be reassembled in time to resist any sudden combination between the Turkish and Montenegrin troops. I have been, however, assured that before any active operations are undertaken both the Montenegrin Government and the foreign Representatives here will receive a written statement of the demands and intentions of the Albanians; and I shall then once again endeavour to prevent a useless effusion of blood and persuade the North Albanians to leave the consideration of their claims to the competent Governments.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 368.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 104. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May* 10, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 87, Political, of the 2nd instant, I have the honour to report that the North Albanian Committee has ordered the contribution by Scutari of an additional sum of 800,000 piastres (about 6,000*l.*); 500,000 piastres to be levied from the Mohammedans and 300,000 piastres from the Christians.

These contributions are excessively heavy for so poor a population, and, I am convinced, would be resisted if the Scutarians were not perfectly aware that the authorities are secretly prepared to enforce them by violent means.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 369.

Savas Pasha to Musurus Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Pasha, May 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 18 *Mai*, 1880.

LES autorités Impériales de Janina et de Salonique continuent à signaler à l'attention de la Sublime Porte les incursions commises par des bandes de brigands formées en Grèce et en Bulgarie.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, profondément ému par la situation que ces nombreuses incursions créent dans ces provinces, a donné à ses autorités l'ordre catégorique de redoubler de vigilance dans la poursuite du brigandage; mais quelle que soit cette vigilance, quelles que soient les mesures adoptées par nos Commandants pour combattre ce fléau, il est évident que nos possessions et nos contrées n'en seront pas totalement délivrées tant que les frontières resteront ouvertes aux malfaiteurs. A cet effet, la Sublime Porte a plus d'une fois signalé au Gouvernement Hellénique l'urgente nécessité d'agir sérieusement et sincèrement dans le but de mettre fin à l'action des Comités, et partant à la formation des bandes qui envahissent périodiquement nos provinces. Plus d'une fois nous avons également signalé la nécessité de mieux garder la ligne de démarcation, et le Gouvernement Impérial a engagé des pourparlers avec l'Administration Princière de Bulgarie pour amener entre les autorités limitrophes l'adoption d'une entente sur leurs moyens d'action.

La malveillance a fait circuler tant de bruits sur l'état de nos provinces, que j'ai dû vous faire connaître la vérité, afin que vous éclairassiez l'opinion publique et le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 370.

Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs to General Menabrea.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by General Menabrea, May 22.)

(Télégraphique.) *Rome, le* 22 *Mai*, 1880.

LE Ministre des Affaires Etrangères d'Italie a reçu du Chargé d'Affaires du Roi auprès du Prince du Monténégro le télégramme suivant :—

"Ayant remis au Prince Nicolas le télégramme de votre Excellence du 19 Mai, Son Altesse me charge de vous remercier et me prie en même temps de faire connaître au Gouvernement du Roi la confiance qu'il a en lui pour amener une prompte solution de la question des frontières du Monténégro. A cet objet le Prince prie le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté d'intervenir auprès des autres Cabinets afin de traiter la question Monténégrine séparément et avant toutes les autres du Traité de Berlin qui restent à exécuter, car il est convaincu qu'une différente procédure amènera des retards qui ne pourront qu'aggraver davantage la situation en Albanie et épuiser les dernières ressources de la Principauté. Le Prince pense que, autrement, il aurait été peut-être préférable de tenter le sort des armes afin de conjurer la ruine complète du Monténégro."

No. 371.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 251.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 21, 1880.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 510 of the 15th instant, the first number of the newspaper in Ordou called "Islam" has been published, and a large number of copies have been, I am told, sent to India. I am assured that it is of a mischievous character, and I am warned that its entrance into India and circulation there should be stopped by the Indian authorities. In it Sultan is termed the "Caliph of India." It is printed in Imperial printing office, and the editor requests that letters may be addressed to him at the Imperial Palace.

No. 372.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 22.)

(No. 68.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, May* 22, 1880.

WITH reference to reports from Bourgas, Governor-General has informed Austrian Consul officially that only three Mussulman villages have been destroyed in Bulgaria, and none in this province.

I have telegraphed to Consul at Bourgas to obtain exact information.

No. 373.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 218.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May* 22, 1880.

I INCLOSE copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, forwarding copy of an instruction sent by M. de Freycinet to M. Léon Say, on the subject of the proposed identic note to the Porte on the Greek Frontier question.† The French Government strongly urge, in view of the long delay of the Porte to return a definitive reply to the proposal made by Lord Salisbury for the appointment of a local Commission, that it would be better to abandon that proposal, and thus avoid the risk of its now being accepted with the object of creating further delay through the difficulty of carrying it into effect. They consider that the proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin should be substituted for it in the identic note instead of being presented as an alternative, and that the draft of the note should be altered to meet this suggestion.

Her Majesty's Government are prepared to agree to the proposal if all the other Powers concerned agree; but their assent is dependent on this condition. I have consequently to request you to ascertain and report to me the views entertained respecting it by the German Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 374.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23, 11 A.M.)

(No. 69.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, May* 22, 1880, 6 P.M.

FOLLOWING figures received from Consul Brophy, dated to-day:—

"On the 13th May authorities admitted to me that six villages were burnt; since then eye-witnesses report seven others. Prefect at the time of troubles was passing through district in question on way to Varna, and since his return strict watch has been kept to prevent fugitives bringing news here, but will try to learn official estimate. Only one village in Bulgaria, the others are in our province."

(Sent to Therapia.)

No. 375.

Mr. Michell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23, 11 A.M.)

(No. 70.)
(Telegraphic.) *Philippopoli, May* 22, 1880, 10 P.M.

GOVERNOR-GENERAL has been obliged to acknowledge to Austrian Consul that he had been misinformed respecting destruction of villages. He sent his Secretary this afternoon to express regret and communicate telegram just received from Prefect of Bourgas, who now reports that four and-a-half villages in this province were destroyed. His Excellency has denied to the Porte also destruction of any villages in Eastern Roumelia.

(Sent to Therapia.)

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* Similar despatches were addressed to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.
† No. 316.

No. 376.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 23.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May* 23, 1880.

AM arrived. Instructions received. Shall be glad if Sandwith could come here.

No. 377.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 209.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 14, 1880.

BY an order of the Lord High Admiral of the Russian fleet, published in the "Official Gazette" of the $\frac{\text{30th April}}{\text{12th May}}$, 1880, the steamer "Goloobstrick," belonging to the Black Sea fleet, is made over to the Principality of Bulgaria, and the schooner "Kelausuri," which has been returned by the Bulgarian Government, is included in the list of vessels of the Black Sea fleet.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 378.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 24.)

(No. 217.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 18, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose copy of the note addressed to me by M. de Giers explaining the views of the Imperial Cabinet with regard to the unfulfilled clauses of the Treaty of Berlin to which your Lordship's despatch No. 176 of the 4th instant refers.

M. de Giers states that the Russian Government are prepared to join with the Powers in presenting an identic note to the Porte on the subject of Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia, the draft of which his Excellency suggests should be drawn up by Her Majesty's Government.

The Imperial Cabinet shares your Lordship's apprehensions with regard to the gravity of the state of affairs on the Montenegrin frontier, and suggests that England should take the initiative in establishing an understanding between the Powers as to the further measures to be adopted in the event of a collective European protest being insufficient to prevent the outbreak of hostilities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 378.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

Milord, *St. Pétersbourg, le* 2 *Mai*, 1880.

J'AI pris les ordres de Sa Majesté l'Empereur relativement à la dépêche que Lord Granville a adressé à votre Excellence sous la date du 4 Mai et qu'elle a été chargée de communiquer au Ministère Impérial.

En constatant l'intérêt Européen qui s'attache à l'exécution des stipulations du Traité de Berlin encore en retard et la nécessité de réunir les efforts des Puissances afin d'atteindre ce but, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique va au devant des convictions et des vues du Cabinet Impérial.

Il ne peut que se féliciter de voir le Cabinet de Londres ouvrir les voies au rétablissement d'un concert des Puissances en vue de la consolidation de la paix de l'Orient sur la base du Traité de Berlin, et il est pour sa part entièrement disposé à s'y associer.

J'ai en conséquence l'ordre de porter à la connaissance de votre Excellence que le Cabinet Impérial est prêt à munir son Représentant à Constantinople d'instructions à l'effet d'adresser à la Porte une note identique et simultanée d'accord avec ses collègues, afin d'exiger du Gouvernement Turc de remplir immédiatement les obligations découlant du Traité de Berlin par rapport à la Grèce, au Monténégro, et à l'Arménie, si cette proposition rencontre l'assentiment des Grandes Puissances.

En pareil cas le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique jugera peut-être nécessaire de proposer également le projet de cette note identique, afin d'établir quant aux termes de cette Déclaration le même accord qui se serait formé quant au principe et de constater ainsi la décision ferme et unanime des Grandes Puissances.

Lord Granville signale lui-même que l'état des choses sur la frontière Monténégrine exige une attention particulièrement pressante.

Le Cabinet Impérial partage cette conviction, confirmée par tous les renseignements qui lui parviennent de ces contrées.

Il faut appréhender des conflits imminents dont les conséquences pourraient être très-graves, et qu'une déclaration du vœu unanime des Puissances pourrait ne pas suffire à conjurer.

Dans cette prévision le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique jugera sans doute urgent d'étendre également l'entente préalable à établir entre les Grandes Puissances à la marche qu'elles auraient à adopter en commun dans le cas où les habitudes dilatoires du Gouvernement Turc, ou son impuissance réelle, le mettrait hors d'état de déférer sans délai et par des mesures pratiques à la demande collective des Cabinets.

Le Cabinet Impérial attendra les réponses du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique sur ces deux points pour concerter l'attitude à prendre et les directions à donner à son Représentant à Constantinople.

En priant votre Excellence de vouloir bien porter ce qui précède à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, je saisis, &c.

(Signé) GIERS.

No. 379.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 219.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 18, 1880.

M. DE GIERS informs me that several Governments, including that of France, have taken exception to the paragraph in his reply to your Lordship's despatch No. 176 of the 4th instant, in which he refers to the desirability of the European Powers considering in concert what ulterior steps should be taken in the event of a collective European protest being insufficient to prevent the outbreak of hostilities.

M. de Giers observed in reference to the criticisms which had been addressed to him, that his allusion did not necessarily imply a resort to physical force.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 380.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 220.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 18, 1880.

YESTERDAY M. de Giers observed to me that the designation "Kuci-Krino" did not exactly convey what he presumed to be your Lordship's meaning, as the district so called will probably be found not to be exactly co-terminous with the line of demarcation agreed upon between Montenegro and the Porte. He would therefore have preferred the following form of words:—

"La cession du territoire au Monténégro fixée par le mémorandum."

His Excellency added that he had not thought the point of sufficient importance to notice it in his formal reply to me, but that his attention had been called—I imagine by the Austrian Government—to the inaccuracy of the expression used, and that he agreed in the justice of the criticism.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 381.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 224.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May* 19, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith copy of the answer which I have received from M. de Giers to a note which I addressed to his Excellency in accordance with your Lordship's instructions contained in your despatch No. 192 of the 12th instant.

While agreeing to the proposal for a Conference to be held before the end of June respecting the Turco-Greek frontier in the eventuality of the Porte not giving a satisfactory answer to the identic note to be addressed to that Power by the other Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin, the Russian Government suggest that capital as the seat of the Conference, and also, that in order to assure the execution of the Treaty, all other points shall be discussed about which a satisfactory answer has not been received. The Russian Government consider such a manifestation will be the more opportune as the application of the tracing* of the Turco-Greek frontier would be liable to the same obstacles as those now raised by the Albanians to the execution of the Turco-Montenegrin memorandum.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

Inclosure in No. 381.

M. de Giers to the Earl of Dufferin.

M. l'Ambassadeur, *St. Pétersbourg, le 7 Mai*, 1880.

EN réponse à la note que votre Excellence m'a adressée le $\frac{1}{7}$ Mai courant, j'ai l'honneur de l'informer, d'ordre de Sa Majesté l'Empereur, que le Cabinet Impérial n'a pas d'objections à faire insérer dans la note identique à présenter à la Porte l'alternative soit de réunir la Commission Internationale proposée pour la délimitation Turco-Grecque, soit dans le cas où elle maintiendra ses objections à ce sujet et ne donnerait pas de réponse satisfaisante jusqu'à la mi-Juin, de déférer à une Conférence des Grandes Puissances le soin d'examiner et de décider à la majorité la ligne de rectification de la frontière à adopter.

En pareil cas, le Cabinet Impérial est d'avis que, comme il s'agit de l'exécution au Traité de Berlin, cette ville serait le mieux indiquée pour être le siége de la Conférence.

Dans cette éventualité le Cabinet Impérial pense que la même Conférence devrait prendre en considération la nécessité d'assurer l'exécution du Traité de Berlin sur tous les points où la Porte ne donnerait pas satisfaction au vœu collectif des Grandes Puissances, conformément aux décisions qu'elles auraient arrêtées en commun.

Une telle manifestation de la volonté unanime de l'Europe semblerait d'autant plus opportune que l'application du tracé que la majorité aurait adopté pour la délimitation Turco-Grecque serait exposée à rencontrer les mêmes obstacles que les Albanais ont opposés jusqu'ici à l'exécution de l'arrangement stipulé dans le mémorandum Turco-Monténégrin.

Je prie votre Excellence de vouloir bien faire part de ce point de vue à Lord Granville en l'informant de notre adhésion à sa proposition.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) GIERS.

No. 382.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 214.)
My Lord, *Berlin, May* 16, 1880.

PRINCE HOHENLOHE tells me that the German Government have no objection to the Austrian proposal that the Porte should be called upon to establish a military cordon between Scutari and the Albanians, to prevent supplies reaching them from thence, if the other Signatory Powers agree to it also.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

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* Application du tracé.

No. 383.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 216. Most Confidential.)
Berlin, May 17, 1880.

My Lord,

PRINCE ORLOFF arrived here a few days since, and has had audiences of the Emperor, and of the Chancellor, Prince Bismarck.

As far as I can learn he is the bearer of conciliatory assurances from his Government, the object of which are gradually to re-establish the friendly relations which formerly existed between Russia and Germany, and which the conclusion of the Austro-German defensive alliance had temporarily disturbed.

Prince Bismarck appears to be far better disposed towards Russia than he was last autumn, and a reconciliation has become likely since Prince Gortchacow has practically retired from the administration of the Russian Foreign Office.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 384.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 219. Secret.)
Berlin, May 21, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE repeatedly had occasion to notice that the French Government are in the habit of consulting Prince Bismarck confidentially on all questions of foreign policy before dealing with them. To-day I have been privately informed that your Lordship, having inquired of the French Ambassador in London what his Government thought of a suggestion of Count Münster's to the effect that the Porte should be represented on the Greek Frontier Commission, M. de Freycinet appealed to Prince Bismarck to know why he had changed his long since declared opinion, that the Powers interested in the delimitation of the new frontier, that is Greece and Turkey, should not form part of it.

Prince Bismarck, I am told, has replied that he adheres to his former opinion, and that Count Münster was not authorized by him to propose to Her Majesty's Government that Turkey should be represented in the Greek Frontier Commission.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 385.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

(No. 223.)
Berlin, May 21, 1880.

My Lord,

IN the absence of Prince Hohenlohe, who has gone to Munich, I have been informed by the Acting Minister for Foreign Affairs, that the German Ambassador in London was instructed, on the 18th instant, to inform your Lordship that the German Government agreed to the identic note proposed in your Lordship's Circular of the 4th instant.

The German Government also agree to the note being drawn up by the Representatives of the Signatory Powers at Constantinople on the basis of your Lordship's proposal.

Instructions to that effect have already been sent to Count Hatzfeldt.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 386.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 24.)

(Translation.)
(Confidential.)
Vienna, May 19, 1880.

M. le Comte,

I AM very thankful to Lord Granville for his willingness, in discussing the subject of compensation for Montenegro, to proceed no further, even confidentially, with other Powers until he should be aware of the views of the Imperial and Royal Government.

I hasten to furnish you with them for confidential communication to his Lordship.

As far back as the end of last year we had occasion to reject a similar project in regard to the Porte. A copy of the telegram thereon to Herr von Kosjek is inclosed with this despatch, and you may show it to Lord Granville. In fact, there are reasons of a legal, political, and commercial nature which prevent our concurrence in the idea that Montenegro should get compensation for its claims under the Berlin Treaty, in the territory of the Sandjak of Novi-Bazar.

Article XXV of the Berlin Peace clearly gives us the right of garrisoning and laying down military and commercial roads throughout the territory of the sandjak.

The same Article shows that it was only voluntary restriction on our part not to take upon ourselves also the occupation and administration of this territory, which was regarded as an integral part of the old Vilayet of Bosnia and the Herzegovina.

Hence it follows that we must consider the military position of Austria-Hungary in this territory as indispensable, for the same reasons as were decisive for the occupation of Bosnia by our troops.

Thus far for the legal reasons which, as I thankfully acknowledge, are not questioned by Lord Granville. His Lordship confirms them rather, inasmuch as he, merely in regard to reasons of expediency, puts the question "whether that territory is really of any importance to Austria-Hungary, compared with the difficulties, &c.?"

Hereupon, I must reply that the territory in question, insignificant as its extent appears, is certainly of importance to us both politically and commercially.

It cannot be indifferent to us, from the political point of view, that our military position in the Lim territory, otherwise pretty well exposed and more marked out than actually taken up, should be weakened by our having to bear the costs, as it were, of the Porte's errors, and of a pending struggle between Albanians and Montenegrins. If Christians and Mahommedans, Slavs and Albanians, get the impression that that to which Turkey could not be held by the united pressure of Europe is to be thrown off-hand upon our shoulders, this may be very hazardous for our credit in those countries which only pay respect to the idea of power, and make it necessary to reinforce our troops in the sandjak, a sacrifice which under normal circumstances we have no intention of imposing on ourselves.

Moreover, we must call to mind that the Congress for good reasons opposed the enlargement of Montenegro on the east side and in the direction towards Servia, as planned at San Stefano; to seek the compensation for Montenegro in the Lim territory is to act not only in opposition to the letter but also to the spirit of the Berlin Treaty, at the fulfilment of which the Powers are aiming.

With regard to the commercial position, your Excellency will be so good as to direct the noble Lord's attention to the circumstance that the course of the Lim—inasmuch as the railway towards Mitrowitza finds great obstacles in the Ragonitza Mountain, 3,600 feet high—probably forms the most suitable ground for a junction of rails to the south. To relinquish this important tract of land to Montenegro would either prevent the arrangement of connecting lines with the east, or create a position in which Montenegro would be able at any time to interrupt the existing connections. Such a dependence on the good-will of our little neighbour could not be consistent with the interests of our Monarchy.

Finally, I must remark that the territory at the Lim, which Lord Granville has in prospect, is partly inhabited by Albanians. Nor have we ever heard that Montenegro has declared its concurrence in the exchange projected by the Porte, although at that time it was only a question about the barren Gusinje, and not about fertile land such as the plain of Podgoritza offers.

Whilst I communicate all these considerations to your Excellency in a confidential manner, I think it of great importance that Lord Granville should not receive the impression that we are less anxious than any other Power for the removal of the difficulty between Albania and Montenegro. We believe, however—and the answer of the Porte already transmitted seems to justify this notion—that this question is more difficult than

urgent. If the Sultan be in earnest, if the Porte were to change its military commanders and civil authorities, as well as the troops, especially at Scutari, or to increase them, to stop the outflow to Tusi, to compensate to some extent the Grudi-Hotti concerned, and in general to apply an appropriate sum, in an appropriate manner, even the April project might possibly be accomplished without special collision.

Meanwhile, the stagnation of the situation—inasmuch as the Albanians will hardly be held together for the time indispensable for agricultural work—may have an influence upon them that cannot but be advantageous.

I hereby authorize your Excellency to communicate the whole contents of this despatch to Lord Granville in confidence, and I at the same time renew, &c.

(Signed) HAYMERLE.

Inclosure in No. 386.

Baron Haymerle to M. de Kosjek.

Vienna, December 30, 1879.

WE have with satisfaction taken note of the repeated assurance of the Porte to fulfil the cession of Gusinjé, and cause her Commissioner to meet with the Delegate of Montenegro. We cannot believe that the Porte should listen to insinuations about an exchange of territory on the side of Novi-Bazar. At all events, you will leave her no doubt that we should consider such a proposition, which we have already at a former occasion characterized as being contrary to Treaty, as a flagrant violation of the Berlin Treaty and Convention.

No. 387.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24.)

Rome, May 23, 1880, 9·35 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

ITALIAN Government have no objection whatever to the proposed Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin for the settlement of the Greek frontier question, instead of the meeting of a local Commission, as formerly suggested; and they therefore assent to the proposal of the French Government mentioned in your telegram No. 78.

No. 388.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 43.) *Berlin, May* 24, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's No. 71.

Prince Bismarck concurs with your Lordship in accepting the suggestion of the French Government that the proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin should be substituted in the identic note for the alternative proposal to the Porte previously agreed to.

No. 389.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 24, 2·40 P.M.)

(No. 61.) *Vienna, May* 24, 1880.

(Telegraphic.)

MR. GOSCHEN wishes your Lordship to be informed that he had had an audience of the Emperor, and had seen the German Ambassador before leaving Vienna on Saturday.

He sailed yesterday from Trieste.

No. 390.

Savfet Pasha to Mukhtar Pasha.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Mukhtar Pasha, May 25.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 18 *Mai*, 1880.

LA Sublime Porte a été informée que le Cabinet de Sa Majesté Britannique vient d'adresser aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin une Note Circulaire dans le but de leur proposer de transmettre à leurs Représentants à Constantinople des instructions leur prescrivant de remettre simultanément une note identique au Gouvernement Impérial pour l'inviter à exécuter immédiatement les obligations qui lui incombent, d'après le dit Traité, relativement à la Grèce, au Monténégro, et aux vilayets habités en partie par des Arméniens.

Cette Circulaire expose à propos de la Grèce que la Sublime Porte, qui s'est bornée à indiquer les difficultés que rencontrerait la Commission proposée par Lord Salisbury, sans donner réponse définitive, devrait être invitée à répondre sans aucun délai.

A propos du Monténégro, la Circulaire porte que les autorités Ottomanes n'ayant pas exécuté l'accord établi avec la Principauté, la Sublime Porte devrait être invitée à déclarer quelles sont ses intentions au sujet des frontières Monténégrines.

Enfin, à propos de l'Article LXI du Traité de Berlin, le Cabinet Britannique déclare que la Sublime Porte n'ayant pas fait connaître jusqu'à présent les mesures qu'elle a prises pour son exécution, et l'état des vilayets habités en partie par des Arméniens étant déplorable, il ne saurait admettre que cette clause du Traité reste plus longtemps à l'état de lettre-morte, et croit qu'il n'y a qu'une pression combinée des Puissances qui pourrait induire la Sublime Porte à exécuter cet objet.

Telle est, d'après nos informations, la substance de la Note Circulaire de son Excellence Lord Granville.

La Sublime Porte, connaissant les sentiments de justice du noble Lord, désire l'entretenir en toute franchise sur ces questions, afin qu'il puisse connaître et apprécier les raisons de la conduite du Gouvernement Impérial et ses intentions relativement à ces trois importants sujets.

Le noble Lord n'ignore point que les Puissances n'ont émis à Berlin relativement à la question Grecque qu'un vœu, en se réservant tout simplement d'offrir, le cas échéant, leur médiation aux deux parties pour faciliter les négociations, et que, par conséquent, à quelque période que ce soit des négociations, les Puissances ne peuvent pas dépasser les limites de l'action qu'elles se sont réservé d'exercer par l'Article XXIV.

Tel est le point de vue rationnel et légitime auquel il serait à désirer que sa Seigneurie se plaçât pour apprécier la valeur de la proposition de son prédécesseur. Ceci posé, il importe au Gouvernement Impérial de renseigner sa Seigneurie sur les vraies raisons qui ont empêché jusqu'à ce jour les deux parties intéressées de s'entendre sur la rectification de frontières recommandée par les Puissances.

Deux fois la Turquie et la Grèce se sont trouvées en présence sans réussir à s'entendre. A Preveza et à Constantinople la première chose que les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont voulu établir a été le caractère obligatoire du Protocole No. 13. La première fois, les négociations ont été rompues sans que l'Europe ait eu le temps et ait trouvé l'opportunité d'examiner et de juger la prétention du Gouvernement Hellénique. La seconde fois, les Puissances ont condamné la doctrine Hellénique et les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes ont dû l'abandonner. Les atermoiements et les retards qui ont caractérisé cette première et stérile période de la Conférence ne peuvent donc être imputés à la Sublime Porte.

Avant d'examiner les raisons qui ont rendu également stérile la seconde période de la Conférence, il importe de rappeler que la Grèce avait demandé au Congrès de Berlin l'annexion de l'Epire et de la Thessalie, et que, suivant le vœu exprimé par la Haute Assemblée, la rectification recommandée réduisait de plus de la moitié les prétentions de la Grèce.

Dans la seconde période de la Conférence les Plénipotentiaires Hellènes, abandonnant brusquement le Protocole dont ils avaient jusqu'alors soutenu le caractère obligatoire, ont présenté une ligne comprenant plus du double du territoire visé par le vœu de Berlin. Sur cette base toute entente devenait impossible et les Plénipotentiaires Ottomans ont dû reconnaître qu'au lieu des sentiments conciliants et équitables auxquels la Puissance appelée à faire tous les sacrifices était en droit de s'attendre, ils se trouvaient en face d'exigences dont la réalisation aurait amené les plus grands conflits dans la péninsule des Balkans, voire même une désagrégation complète des possessions Européennes de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, ils ont donc dû adopter un système de "défense serrée" parce

qu'ils ont eu à traiter, non point avec un voisin animé d'intentions conciliantes, mais avec un adversaire cherchant à préparer sous le déguisement d'une entente cordiale le démembrement de la Turquie d'Europe.

Les Conférences de Constantinople n'ont pas abouti parce que la Grèce a trop demandé. Néanmoins, la Turquie avait offert par sa dernière proposition une base de négociation très-sérieuse, base qui a été repoussée par la Grèce à laquelle l'Europe doit dès lors imputer la rupture de la Conférence. Cette dernière proposition a tardé à se produire, il est vrai, mais il faut admettre qu'un Souverain et un Gouvernement à qui l'on propose de céder du territoire sans guerre, sans obligation découlant d'un Traité, et sans aucun profit matériel ou moral, ont bien le droit d'hésiter et de réfléchir mûrement.

Les Grandes Puissances, auxquelles nous communiquions les résultats de nos séances et qui ont blâmé toutes les prétentions exagérées de la Grèce, auraient pu lui prescrire de se montrer raisonnable; c'eût été la première et plus féconde action de la médiation que les Puissances se sont réservées d'exercer.

Aujourd'hui la situation n'a point changé et la médiation est toujours la seule action que le Traité de Berlin ouvre aux Puissances. La Sublime Porte a, du reste, renseigné exactement les Puissances sur la situation, au moyen des Conférences de Constantinople.

Voilà, M. l'Ambassadeur, les vérités que je vous prie de soumettre, au nom de la Sublime Porte, à son Excellence Lord Granville en lui communiquant les Mémoires Ottomans contenus, depuis le No. 7, dans les Protocoles de la Conférence Turco-Grecque, et en le suppliant de les étudier avec la plus grande attention avant de prendre quelque décision au sujet de la question Grecque.

Le Congrès a accordé au Monténégro des territoires habités par une race indomptable et guerrière, et surtout les districts de Goussinjé et Plava dont les habitants n'ont presque jamais cessé d'être en hostilité avec la Principauté. Le Congrès pouvait cependant accorder à la Montagne Noire des territoires habités par les populations professant la même religion, appartenant à la même race, et aspirant sans cesse à être annexées à la Principauté. La Sublime Porte a réussi par des efforts surhumains et par des sacrifices sans nombre à faciliter au Monténégro la prise de possession de la plus grande partie des territoires en question. La conduite des autorités Monténégrines vis-à-vis des habitants des localités annexées, conduite qui s'est traduite par le séquestre de toutes les propriétés appartenant à des Musulmans et par des exactions de toute sorte sur cette malheureuse population, a été cause que le jour où la Commission Internationale de Délimitation est arrivée sur les confins de Goussinjé-Plava la population a refusé de l'admettre et s'est mise en pleine révolte contre la domination Monténégrine. Il est inutile d'énumérer ici les phases multiples traversées par la question Goussinjé-Plava. Je me bornerai à reproduire deux paragraphes de mon télégramme à l'Ambassade Impériale à Vienne en date du 15 Décembre, paragraphes qui sont le dernier mot de la Sublime Porte à propos de Goussinjé:—

"Le Gouvernement Impérial, ayant retiré ses troupes et ses autorités civiles de Goussinjé, était parfaitement en règle au point de vue des stipulations du Traité de Berlin, et en consentant à favoriser la prise de possession de ce district par la Principauté il n'obéissait qu'à des considérations d'humanité en vue d'éviter une nouvelle et inutile effusion de sang; mais si, pour des raisons que je n'abstiendrai d'approfondir, le Gouvernement Princier voulait absolument entrer par la force dans Goussinjé et ensanglanter de nouveau ces contrées, il est le maître de le faire, et le Gouvernement Impérial ne pourrait que le déplorer en constatant qu'il fait tous ses efforts pour conjurer ces calamités.

"Le second moyen, c'est l'emploi de la force brutale. Si c'est ce dernier moyen qui prévaut, il est du devoir de la Sublime Porte de dégager sa responsabilité morale et de laisser à l'Etat cessionnaire le soin d'une si cruelle exécution."

Le Gouvernement Impérial n'a jamais cessé de faire tous ses efforts pour résoudre pacifiquement cette question. Mes nombreuses dépêches à ce sujet en font foi. Ainsi: envoi de Commissaires, expédition d'une armée nombreuse, Proclamation officielle de cession, offre des plus belles fermes de la Couronne aux habitants dépossédés, promesse d'assistance pécuniaire, d'exemption d'impôts pendant une longue [*sic*] d'années; tous ces moyens ont été employés pour vaincre la résistance des habitants de Goussinjé-Plava. Si le succès n'a pas couronné les efforts du Gouvernement Impérial, c'est que le Monténégro a attaqué trois fois les Albanais de Goussinjé, versant inutilement le sang, et portant au comble l'exaspération des esprits. Tout le monde a vu dans Goussinjé une position fortifiée par la nature, difficile à prendre, dont la conquête par les armes aurait causé une effusion de sang considérable et produit un conflit propre à engendrer les plus graves conséquences.

Un échange a été conseillé, et la Sublime Porte ne l'a point repoussé parce que son vrai désir a toujours été d'éviter une nouvelle effusion de sang et de faire disparaître toute cause de conflit.

Les circonstances qui ont accompagné l'évacuation des pays échangés, les stipulations qui les concernent, les raisons qui prouvent combien les imputations Monténégrines sont mal fondées vous seront communiquées sous la forme d'une note responsive adressée à notre Ministre à Cettinjé.

Votre Excellence aura la bonté de la soumettre à son Excellence Lord Granville et de le prier de l'étudier avec l'impartialité qui est le propre des esprits élevés et inaccessibles à la prévention. Elle contient également la réponse à la demande formulée dans le second point de la Circulaire de sa Seigneurie.

Un noyau d'ambitieux, aspirant à des positions sociales élevées, et encouragé par les intrigues intéressés de l'étranger, a fait naître une question Arménienne, et, ce qui est encore plus, a créé une Arménie.

Les Arméniens existent et forment l'une des populations les plus dévouées de l'Empire; ils ont de tout temps été dans la capitale et dans les provinces traités sur un pied d'égalité, étant eux-mêmes des sujets très-fidèles de l'Empire.

La constitution proclamée a, d'ailleurs, entièrement garanti leurs droits; mais l'Arménie n'existe pas; elle est ignorée de la population à tel point que si l'on lui demandait où est sise l'Arménie, elle répondrait assurément qu'elle l'ignore.

Le Congrès de Berlin a parfaitement reconnu cette vérité par son Article LXI, où l'on ne parle que des provinces habitées par les Arméniens.

Les Arméniens forment le cinquième de la population des vilayets qu'ils habitent, et ceci nous offrons à le prouver de la manière la plus incontestable.

La Sublime Porte, malgré la situation qui est résultée de la guerre, malgré les embarras financiers et les autres circonstances critiques qu'elle a eu à traverser depuis le Congrès de Berlin, n'a pu négliger les engagements contractés et consignés dans l'Article LXI.

Trois Commissions d'Enquête dont les membres, appartenant aux rangs les plus élevés de l'Empire, ont été choisis avec un extrême soin, ont été envoyées sur les lieux.

Leurs faits et gestes et leurs Rapports ont été portés au fur et à mesure à la connaissance des Représentants des six Puissances à Constantinople.

Dans l'avenir également le Gouvernement fera toute la diligence possible pour l'exécution rapide de cette disposition du Traité. La Sublime Porte croit fermement que l'amélioration du sort des Arméniens dépend absolument d'une bonne et sage organisation des provinces qu'ils habitent et que leur sécurité doit être cherchée dans la sécurité de tous. Elle se propose donc de réorganiser ces vilayets et d'y introduire des institutions de nature à assurer à ces habitants le repos et une parfaite sécurité. Elle ne tardera point à porter, conformément au Traité de Berlin, à la connaissance des Puissances les mesures définitives qu'elle élabore en ce moment à ce sujet. Mais tel n'est point le but des visées de ceux qui, emportés par le plus funeste des aveuglements, exagèrent le mal, créent et propagent de fausses nouvelles, et, en un mot, cherchent par tous les moyens à induire les Puissances à aller au delà de la lettre et de l'esprit de l'Article LXI.

Les principales victimes des illusions habilement préparées par ces ambitieux sont les Consuls de Sa Majesté Britannique nouvellement envoyés dans ces provinces. Ignorant les vrais auteurs de ce mouvement, ignorant les us et coutumes du pays, ne devinant point l'intrigue dans toute sa nudité, dupes de leur bonne foi, ils ont transmis au Foreign Office des informations habilement ménagées par des hommes ennemis autant des Arméniens eux-mêmes que de l'Empire Ottoman.

La tendance évidente de toutes ces menées est la formation d'une Bulgare Asiatique. Or, il est du devoir le plus impérieux de la Sublime Porte de mettre son Excellence Lord Granville en état de se rendre exactement compte de la possibilité d'une pareille politique. L'honneur et la conscience de la justice, non moins que le sentiment de mes devoirs officiels, m'obligent à traiter cette question sans réticence et ménagement. Dans les provinces qui forment la Bulgarie d'aujourd'hui, il y avait quatre Chrétiens contre un Musulman. Le Musulman constituait, cependant, l'élément dominant, car il avait avec lui la force publique sous toutes les formes; en outre, l'immense majorité des fonctionnaires étaient Musulmans; malgré cela, pendant les quatre siècles qu'a duré cet état de choses, jamais le Chrétien n'a souffert ce que le Musulman souffre aujourd'hui par suite de ce déplacement d'autorité.

Toutes ces souffrances sont constatées dans les Rapports adressés au Foreign Office de Sa Majesté Britannique par ses Agents. C'est ainsi que dans un télégramme adressé dernièrement à l'Ambassade Britannique, par son Consul à Bourgas, et reproduit par la presse, parmi d'autres faits ayant trait aux atrocités Bulgares, il est affirmé que des bandes Bulgares se sont livrées à une nouvelle incursion dans la Roumélie Orientale. Chaque pas

de cette incursion a été marqué par l'incendie et le pillage des biens et des villages, et le massacre des hommes, le viol des femmes Musulmanes.

Si je me suis permis cette digression, c'est moins dans le but de signaler ici la continuation en Bulgarie d'un état de choses si contraire aux principes d'humanité et de civilisation, que dans celui de constater que, si les vilayets habités par les Arméniens venaient à recevoir une forme analogue à celle de la Bulgarie, les mêmes errements et les mêmes vexations ne manqueraient de s'y produire.

Cette digression était, du reste, nécessaire à ma démonstration, car il faut que les grandes vérités sociales et historiques trouvent aujourd'hui leur application dans l'Orient troublé, et que par cette application on mette fin aux calamités qui se sont déchaînées sur l'Empire Ottoman. En Bulgarie la majorité étant Chrétienne on a pu lui confier le pouvoir; on le lui conserve malgré l'abus qu'elle en fait. Mais, si l'on croit pouvoir faire la même chose dans les vilayets habités par des Arméniens, on se trompe, car comme il a été dit plus haut, ce serait reproduire les atrocités Bulgares dans les dits vilayets. Ainsi agissant, on aboutirait sans doute à un résultat diamétralement opposé à celui que l'on cherche. L'apaisement, la tranquillité, l'ordre étaient le bien-être des populations. Mais une vérité qui domine cette situation et qu'on ne doit jamais perdre de vue est la suivante:

Il est matériellement impossible de mettre les Musulmans qui forment les quatre cinquièmes de la population des localités en question sous la domination de la minorité Arménienne; rien qu'à l'essayer on ferait naître les plus graves convulsions sociales dans ces contrées sans le moindre espoir de maintenir la majorité de la population sous un pareil régime.

Il faut donc que les hommes sages et justes qui dirigent aujourd'hui la politique de la Grande Bretagne ferment l'oreille aux objurgations insidieuses et intéressées de quelques Arméniens, et qu'ils demandent à la Sublime Porte l'application exacte et rigoureuse du Traité de Berlin, étant sûrs qu'elle y consacrera ses efforts les plus persévérants pour faire honneur à ses engagements et assurer, ce qu'elle considère comme un devoir sacré, la prospérité de tous les divers éléments qui peuplent ses provinces.

Le nouveau Cabinet Anglais, dont tous les membres sont connus et renommés pour leurs sentiments de haute humanité et de justice, serait victime d'une grave illusion s'il conservait l'idée que le Gouvernement Impérial doit être traité comme un fort oppresseur. Le Gouvernement Ottoman est encore aujourd'hui victime d'une tradition erronée qui le fait considérer comme professant des principes d'exclusivisme religieux ou national et de caste. Rien n'est plus faux et plus injuste que cette croyance, et les Puissances finiront par reconnaître que les atermoiements, les lenteurs, et les hésitations que l'on nous reproche, soit à propos des graves questions politiques, soit à propos des affaires d'une importance secondaire, ne sont point le résultat d'une inertie systématique ou d'une résistance préméditée, mais bien le résultat inexorable de la guerre et du trouble matériel et moral qui en a été la suite. Moins de prévention et plus d'indulgence envers un Etat qui se relève à peine d'une crise unique dans l'histoire faciliteraient toutes les solutions et hâteraient le moment où toutes les justes exigences de l'Europe pourraient être satisfaites.

Voilà, M. l'Ambassadeur, les considérations que nous croyons devoir soumettre au Cabinet de St. James à la suite des informations qui nous ont été données sur le contenu de la Circulaire de son Excellence Lord Granville. Nous prions sa Seigneurie d'étudier avec patience et sans prévention ce long travail et ses annexes, et nous faisons appel à ses sentiments aussi bien qu'à ceux de l'illustre homme d'Etat qui préside le Cabinet Britannique, afin que leur jugement à notre égard soit rectifié et que la démarche projetée soit empreinte de la justice et de l'impartialité que nous avons droit d'attendre des Ministres de la plus constante alliée de la Turquie.

D'ordre de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan, je viens prier votre Excellence de remettre ou de faire parvenir sans la moindre perte de temps copie de la présente au noble Lord.

Cette dépêche ne sera point communiquée aux Représentants de la Sublime Porte auprès des autres Grandes Puissances puisqu'elle est exclusivement destinée à éclairer les Ministres de Sa Majesté Britannique.

No. 390*.

Savâs Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, May 25.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le 23 Mai*, 1880.

JE vous envoie ci-après, pour votre information, le télégramme responsif que je viens d'adresser à notre Ministre à Cettigné:—

"Reçu Rapport, et lu avec la plus grande attention les notes protestatives y annexées.

"Malgré la longueur de ces notes et les nombreux détails y contenus, il m'a été impossible de rien découvrir qui soit de nature à modifier les convictions de la Sublime Porte. En effet, en dehors de la question des vingt-quatre heures à propos de laquelle le Gouvernement Impérial a déjà donné aux Puissances Signataires du Protocole des explications, je n'y trouve que deux ordres d'allégations, à savoir: (1) l'accusation contre les fonctionnaires et officiers Ottomans d'avoir remis aux Albanais avant l'heure fixée les positions à évacuer et leur avoir distribué des armes et des munitions; (2) l'accusation contre les autorités civiles et militaires du Vilayet de Scutari d'avoir préparé de longue main la population et organisé la résistance que le Monténégro rencontre de la part des Albanais qui continueraient, d'ailleurs, à être encouragés et alimentés par les dites autorités.

"Si la Sublime Porte n'avait pas offert aux Puisssances d'établir, au moyen d'une enquête dont elle leur laisse le soin de déterminer la forme et les conditions d'exécution, la vérité sur les faits en question, j'aurais facilement mis à néant toutes ces allégations, et démontré qu'il ne s'est produit rien qui puisse être attribué au parti pris ou à la connivence de nos autorités civiles ou militaires, et qu'en définitive l'attitude des Albanais est due, d'un côté aux Proclamations et autres agissements du Gouvernement Princier contre lesquels nous avons protesté à temps, et, de l'autre, à la répugnance des habitants de ces contrées pour la domination Monténégrine, répugnance portée au comble par le séquestre des biens des Musulmans des localités annexées au Monténégro ainsi que par une série d'autres traitements injustes et misérables.

"Il ne me reste donc qu'à examiner encore une fois la question de l'observation du délai de vingt-quatre heures. A cet effet, il me suffit d'établir que le Gouverneur-Général de Scutari a expédié sa lettre à temps et que le Commandant Monténégrin de Podgoritza l'a acceptée sans protester, témoignant ainsi qu'il considérait le temps qui lui restait comme suffisant. Cette appréciation du Voïvode Plamenatz, conforme d'ailleurs avec celle d'Izzet Pacha était juste puisque les troupes Monténégrines sont arrivées bien avant l'heure fixée à proximité des positions qu'elles devaient occuper.

"Si elles n'en ont pas pris possession c'est que leur Chef avait pour instruction d'éviter toute rencontre, et que voyant les Albanais réunis en armes sur les éminences sises derrière ces positions elles ont arrêté leur mouvement.

"Les raisons de cette conduite sont plus qu'évidentes; le Gouvernement Princier s'était ravisé, comme je suis à même de le prouver, après la signature du mémorandum, et avait résolu de ne point entrer en lutte avec les Albanais, dans le but incontestable de se préparer les moyens d'éluder des termes précis de l'acte international et d'exiger ainsi la consignation effective des contrées échangées. Le mémorandum ne prescrit que la simple évacuation.

"La Sublime Porte a consenti, c'est vrai, sur les conseils pressants des Puissances, à échanger des territoires, mais jamais à changer la position qui lui était faite par le Traité de Berlin à propos de Goussigné-Plava. Ce point, qui domine toute la situation, a été discuté longuement et au grand jour, et c'est à la suite d'une laborieuse négociation entre la Sublime Porte, le Monténégro, et la Puissance Médiatrice, que les deux paragraphes suivants ont été arrêtés d'un commun accord et insérés dans le mémorandum.

"'Les troupes Ottomanes seront tenues d'évacuer dans un délai de dix jours à partir de la signature du présent Acte les positions qu'elles occupent en ce moment en dehors des nouvelles limites de l'Empire.

"'Vingt-quatre heures avant l'évacuation, les Commandants des points occupés par l'armée Impériale Ottomane auront à prévenir le Commandant de l'armée Princière Monténégrine à Podgoritza de l'heure précise à laquelle ils devraient se retirer des points occupés. Ils attendront cette heure sans s'éloigner avec leurs troupes de ces points et ils ne les quitteront qu'à l'heure fixée.'

"Or, la Sublime Porte n'a jamais fait mystère des difficultés inhérentes à la cession territoriale qui lui a été conseillée. Si elle l'a acceptée c'est dans le double but de donner une nouvelle marque de sa déférence pour les conseils de l'Europe et de son

sincère désir d'éviter un conflit sanglant. Les limites du territoire à échanger ont été non moins laborieusement débattues, et si le Monténégro s'était montré moins exigeant les difficultés actuelles ne se seraient pas produites. Malheureusement pour tous, la Principauté a été inflexible, et les Puissances ont presqu'à l'unanimité engagée la Sublime Porte à lui complaire. Le Gouvernement Princier ne devait point oublier qu'après avoir essayé de prendre Goussigné par les armes, après trois tentatives sanglantes et infructueuses les troupes Monténégrines se sont retirées et qu'on a cherché à résoudre cette question par la cession d'autres territoires. Le Gouvernement Monténégrin n'est donc point justifié à demander aujourd'hui à propos de Hum et de ses habitants ce que nous avons hautement déclaré ne pas être obligés à faire à propos de Goussigné.

"Après l'enquête, le Gouvernement Impérial avisera, de concert avec les Puissances, aux mesures qui paraîtront les plus propres à mettre fin aux difficultés présentes et à éviter tout nouveau conflit et toute effusion de sang. En attendant, vous êtes autorisé à répondre aux trois chefs constituant la protestation contenue dans la note du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Principauté comme il suit: (1), que le Gouvernement Impérial a exécuté toutes les clauses concernant l'évacuation du territoire à échanger; (2), que de ce chef il ne reconnaît avoir occasionné aucun dommage, perte, ou dépense à la Principauté; et (3), que la conduite de ses autorités est en pleine conformité avec le droit des gens, comme il sera prouvé par l'enquête proposée aux Puissances.

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No. 391.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(*Received May 25.*)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 24, 1880, 7 P.M.*

BULGARIAN Chamber having passed a law by which the inhabitants of territory annexed to Roumania and Servia are entitled to become Bulgarian subjects by the mere fact of emigrating into the Principality, Roumanian Agent has, by order of his Government, informed Bulgarian Premier that, Roumania being anxious to live on good terms with Bulgaria, will use all means of conciliation with a view to avert a conflict; but if they are met by an accomplished fact, Roumanian Government will be obliged to protest to the [Powers], and address a Circular to the Signatory Powers of the Treaty of Berlin.

Roumanian Agent has obtained from Prince a promise that no further steps shall be taken for a week.

(Sent to Constantinople.)

No. 392.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 104.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

IN a telegram of the 19th May from St. Petersburgh, communicated by Prince Labanoff, M. Giers states that, while agreeing that an identic note paraphrasing my Circular should be drafted by the Ambassadors at Constantinople, the Russian Government as well as the Austrian Government desire, in order to gain time, that the note should contain a more accentuated phrase in regard to Montenegro.

Ask Austrian Government what it is that they desire should be added.

No. 393.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, M. Bratiano has made a representation here respecting the Naturalization Law, but has not explained why Bulgaria and Servia, who he says jointly protest, object to it. Report what the effect of the law, if passed, will be.

In the meanwhile you may join your colleagues in advising the Bulgarian Government not to act precipitately in the matter, if you find them prepared to do so.

No. 394.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 112.)

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

FOLLOWING telegrams received from and sent to Mr. Lascelles:—

[See Nos. 391 and 393.]

Ascertain if Government to which you are accredited has received similar representations, and the view taken of it.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Lord Odo Russell, Sir A. Paget, and Lord Lyons.

No. 395.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880, 4 P.M.*

WITH reference to Mr. Michell's telegrams of the 22nd May, you should consult with your colleagues as to the best means of ascertaining the truth of the reports respecting the destruction of Turkish villages, and making representations at Philippopoli which may secure the punishment of the offenders and future adequate protection for the Mussulman inhabitants.

No. 396.

Earl Granville to Mr. Lascelles.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880, 6:30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, following sent to Embassies:—

"Ascertain if Government to which you are accredited has received similar representation, and the view taken of it."

No. 397.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 8.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

UNDER date of the 22nd instant Mr. Michell reports that the destruction of Mussulman villages is admitted by the Governor-General of Eastern Roumelia, but the number of those destroyed is disputed.

Your Excellency should consider, in conjunction with your colleagues, how the truth of the reports respecting the destruction of Turkish villages may best be tested, and such representations made at Philippopoli as may insure the punishment of the culprits, and provide proper protection for the Mussulman inhabitants.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 398.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 350 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT to you herewith a copy of a telegram which was communicated to me to-day by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires respecting a telegram addressed by Sawas Pasha to the Turkish Minister at Cettinje, in answer to the Montenegrin notes on the occupation of the ceded territory by the Albanians.*

I told Musurus Bey that as Mr. Goschen was specially charged with this and other questions, there would be no advantage in a discussion of it being carried on in two places at once, and that I would, therefore, not go into the matter with him, though under other circumstances I should have been glad to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 399.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 540. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 25, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, herewith, a copy of a despatch which I have received from Mr. Goschen, giving an account of his interview with M. de Freycinet (at

* May 23.

which your Excellency was present) in regard to the objects of his mission to Constantinople,* and with reference to the language held by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs, I have to express to your Excellency the satisfaction with which Her Majesty's Government have learnt his friendly assurances of cordial co-operation on the part of the French Government in the objects of Mr. Goschen's mission.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 400.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 105. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 11, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to report that the Montenegrin Government, as a measure of precaution, has brought to reside at Ricka, during the present complications on the Albanian frontier, about fifteen of the principal Mussulman inhabitants of Podgoritza, half-a-dozen from Antivari and the Krajna, and all the Mahommedans capable of bearing arms from the village of Golubovec, in the Plain of Podgoritza.

These persons are not confined as prisoners, and are treated with kindness and consideration by the Montenegrins.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 401.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 107. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 15, 1880.*

I HAVE learnt from a trustworthy source that Circular letters, signed jointly by Hodo Bey, the Chief of the Scutari Police, and who is now commanding the Albanians on the Montenegrin frontier, and Prenk Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chief, have been sent within the last few days to the Roman Catholic mountain tribes which do not touch the Montenegrin borders, summoning them to furnish immediately their usual military contingents.

The letters announce that the Chiefs assembled at Fouzi have proclaimed, during the present state of affairs, a "Besa," or suspension of all private and tribal blood feuds, and order that all those who fail to comply with the summons are to be subjected to fines, which will increase progressively as the delay in obeying the injunction is dilatory.

I am also assured that Hodo Bey has directed the Mahommedan peasants who, when the late war first broke out, were supplied with Enfield rifles, and afterwards with breech-loading arms, to send to him their muzzle-loading rifles to be distributed to the Mirdite contingent.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 402.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 108. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 16, 1880.*

DURING the last few days nothing especial has occurred to mark in a particular manner the existence of the Albanian movement; but, at the same time, the firm establishment here of seven battalions of regular troops and a considerable force of artillery has not been availed of in the slightest degree by Izzet Pasha to assert his authority or to in any way demonstrate that the Turkish Government is opposed to the proceedings of the Albanian Committee in Scutari.

For a moment some of the Christian and Mahommedan inhabitants were disposed to

* No. 398.

appeal to the Turkish authorities for protection against the levying of the contributions demanded by the Committee for the national defence, but the indifference shown by Izzet Pasha, and the clearly-pronounced threats of the Albanian leaders, have quickly swept away all signs of resistance.

Many of the town Notables, and some of the police officers, who joined the volunteers when first collected, have returned to Scutari for a few days, and received a public welcome, but not one of them has attracted the attention of the Turkish authorities, nor has Izzet Pasha thought it necessary to proclaim the dismissal, or show any sign of disapproval of the conduct of Hodo Bey, who, in conjunction with Prenk Bib Doda, the Mirdite Chief, commands the Albanians near Podgoritza.

I note these shortcomings of the Turkish Government, lest elsewhere it should be pretended that its authorities here are in the active exercise of their functions. I could not blame Izzet Pasha for his inaction unless I was sure his instructions positively enjoined energetic measures, for affairs have been allowed to drift so long that now the slightest attempt to curb the Albanians would ensure collisions between the Imperial troops and the natives, and would mark, in an unmistakable manner, the way in which power has been allowed to slip away from Ottoman hands.

I am more convinced than ever, from my daily inquiries among the Mahommedan Albanians and other influential natives, that no peaceable execution of the terms of the arrangement of the 12th April last will be allowed to take place, and that the Mussulman natives have so bound themselves with the Roman Catholic mountaineers by their peculiar and ancient forms of brotherhood, that they will not shrink, when necessary, from opposing to the utmost the Sultan's forces. The Roman Catholics are so persuaded of having secured the Mahommedans on their side, that, I believe, they see the advantage of availing themselves of the present opportunity for breaking the bonds which bind that portion of their fellow countrymen to the Sultan's rule. They have been careful to place themselves on an equality with the Mahommedans, by insisting that Prenk Bib Doda should act conjointly with Hodo Bey; and the Mirdite Chief, in order that he may maintain the same state as the Mahommedan noble, is supplied secretly with funds by rich Christians of Scutari. The Roman Catholic clergy has been prominently brought forward in the whole movement. All the congregations—Jesuits, Franciscans, and the native parochial clergy—are represented at the camp, and preach the unity of the Albanians and hatred of the Slavs. The rifles brought for distribution to the Christian volunteers are first carried to and blessed by the priests, and the Mahommedans pay as much attention to the latter as to their own Hodjas.

To avoid, therefore, the exhausting effects of the procrastinating tactics of the Turks on the Moslem Albanians, the Roman Catholics will most likely endeavour, by some acts of aggression on Montenegro, to draw the attention of the European Powers, or to force the Turkish Government to decide on coercive measures, when, by a heroic resistance against two enemies at the same time, these North Albanians trust that they will resuscitate a public sympathy which has been stifled by the interminable complications of the last four years, and that a real union between Christians and Mussulmans of one nationality will not be found insurmountable.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 403.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 58. Political.)
Prisend, May 10, 1880.

My Lord,

NOTWITHSTANDING Mukhtar Pasha's assurances, that once the Gusinjé difficulty settled tranquillity and order would be established, no improvement in the condition of the people, and more especially of the Christian Rayahs, is discernible.

Every day brings its list of robberies and assassinations committed throughout the country.

These acts are not confined to the Mussulman population, for many of the Christians driven to the brink of despair have now shaved their heads, adopted the Turkish dress, and betaken themselves to brigandage—their victims naturally being their own co-religionists.

It has now become apparent that Mukhtar Pasha's Mission to Prisrend had but two objects; one to make believe that the Porte was fully intent on carrying out its Treaty

engagements, and the other that the execution of these engagements should be strenuously opposed.

It must be confessed that Mukhtar Pasha, with the Oriental duplicity of which he is so consummate a master, has shown himself equal to the occasion, and that he has acquitted himself of his difficult task with considerable skill, worthy of a better cause. But truth will out, and the double dealings of which he may now fairly be accused of reflect not so much on him as on those whose instructions he so successfully carried out.

Mukhtar Pasha's professions of loyalty to Treaty obligations, together with his high position and reputation as a General, led me to believe in his honesty of purpose; but, nevertheless, a glance at my despatches suffices to show how from the very first my conclusions were drawn rather from his acts than his words, and that I accepted with suspicion his declarations of sincerity.

Whether Turkey will be the gainer by such a policy remains yet to be seen. From the underhand action taken by the Government in the Gusinjé affair, and that now repeated in the vicinity of Scutari, where the political agitation has been transferred, she thoroughly merits that the original stipulations of the Treaty of Berlin should be adhered to.

It may still be argued at Constantinople that the Albanian League would strenuously oppose such an arrangement, and that the Albanians, one and all, would rise at the mere thought of a foot of territory from these parts being ceded; but I can confidently assert that the so-called League, of which a Government official named Hadji Omer Effendi at Prisrend is the presiding spirit, may be looked upon merely as an imaginary instrument thrust forward by the Government, with the double object of throwing obstacles in the way to a settlement, and to conceal its own machinations; and that the general state of the country at the present time is so thoroughly disorganized and thrown out of gear, that a small force would suffice to establish order and to solve this long-pending frontier question.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 404.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 59. Political.)
Prisrend, May 11, 1880.

My Lord,

TO-DAY I received a note from the Roman Catholic Archbishop informing me that at Jakova the Christians were all shut up in their houses, and in imminent danger of being massacred by the Kursans.

I at once sent to the Vice-Governor to ascertain whether there was any foundation for such a report, and if so, what steps he intended to take for the protection of the Christian population.

The answer I received was that he knew nothing of the affair, except that the Kursan family were about to have their houses burnt for the assassination referred to in my despatch No. 53 of the 24th ultimo.

Half an hour later, however, I received another message informing me that a telegram had arrived from Jakova announcing an attack on the Kursan family by the inhabitants, in which, of the former, one had been shot, another taken prisoner, and the remainder dispersed.

The last account has been confirmed since by a messenger; it is therefore presumed that the safety of the Christians has been restored.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 405.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 60. Political.)

Prisrend, May 12, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatch No. 59 of yesterday's date, I have to report that, according to the information just received from Jakova, two more of the Kursan family have been captured; one dead and the other wounded.

The tribe of Kursan, of which a portion inhabit seven houses at Jakova, have always shown the greatest animosity towards the Christians, and have been the cause of all the disturbances that for some time past have taken place in that locality.

The Catholic clergy, together with the tribes favourable to the Christians, of which Ali Ibra is a Chief, have repeatedly complained to me that as long as the Kursans were allowed to inhabit Jakova there would be no safety for the Christian population; and I have received a memorandum to that effect signed by five Chiefs, a translation of which I have the honour to inclose in my despatch No. 46 of the 17th ultimo.

On several occasions I brought the subject to the notice of Mukhtar Pasha; but his Excellency was always far more intent on thwarting the transfer of Gusinjé to Montenegro than in looking after the safety of the Sultan's Christian subjects, against whom he bears a fanatical hatred, and, therefore, the Kursan family—who either stood in terror of, or had a claim on, the Government for their participation in the assassination of Mehemet Ali—were looked upon by him as useful allies for the carrying out of his political schemes.

Now that Moukhtar Pasha is at a distance and the Kursan family no longer enjoys his protection, the other tribes and inhabitants of the town, seeing that the Government exercises no sort of control, have taken the matter in hand themselves, fully resolved to inflict due punishment on the perpetrators of the murder mentioned in my despatch No. 53 of the 24th ultimo.

But, unfortunately, in a country where the Government show no kind of authority, justice, being administered by private individuals, is looked upon as vengeance, and, consequently, gives rise to blood feuds.

In this instance the Kursans have already intimated that if they were made to suffer by having their houses burnt, they would in future assassinate every Christian they could lay their hands on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 406.

Consul St. John to the Marquis of Salisbury.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 61. Political.)

Prisrend, May 12, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to report that a forced contribution of 50,000 piastres (about 500*l.*) has been levied on the inhabitants of this town by Hadji Omer Effendi, the acknowledged representative of the Executive, in order to equip and dispatch a contingent of 700 disbanded Redifs to Gusinjé, for the purpose of making a diversion in the event of an attack by Montenegro on the Albanians at Scutari.

Moreover, a rumour is afloat that if successful in the aforementioned enterprise, contingents from several districts will assemble on the Servian frontier, where an attack will be made with the object to regain, for the benefit of the Mussulman refugees, that portion of territory transferred to Servia by the Treaty of Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. ST. JOHN.

No. 407.

Consul-General Blunt to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 56. Political.)

Salonica, May 15, 1880.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches No 42 of the 25th July, 1879, and No. 44 of the 1st instant, I have the honour to transmit herewith a return which I have prepared from data I procured during my mission in Thessaly in 1878-9 relative to the population and distribution of landed property in district of Yeni-Shehir (Larissa), in that province.

The total population of this district may be estimated at 98,189, including women and children, and consists of 22,338 Mahommedans, 72,851 Christians, and 3,000 Jews.

The average amount of taxes annually levied by Government is about 85,000*l.*, and is principally derived from the following sources:—

	£
"Virgu," property tax	8,300
Military commutation	5,500
Tithes	50,000
Sheep	15,000
Silk	3,000

Mr. Vice-Consul Longworth furnishes in the inclosed Report a description of the town of Larissa and its inhabitants.

The returns which I have till now forwarded relative to the population and resources of Thessaly embrace six of the seven districts into which the province is divided, viz.:—

Armyro, Tchataldja and Domoco, Carditza, Tricalla, Allassona, and Larissa. I am unable to furnish a Report on Volo, as I had to leave Thessaly before I could complete my inquiries relative to that district. I hope, however, that this information will be supplied by Mr. Longworth.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 1 in No. 407.

Return of the Population of the Towns, Villages, and Estates in the District of Larissa, including the Sub-Districts of Yenidjeh (Ayia), Tirnova, and Derélu, in Thessaly.

Towns.

No.	Names.	Houses.				Male Population.				Remarks.
		Turkish.	Christian.	Jewish.	Total.	Turks.	Christian Greeks.	Jews.	Total.	
1	Larissa (in Turkish "Yeni-Shehir")	1,661	876	347	2,884	2,754	1,626	666	4,946	10 hours from Volo.
2	Ayia (in Turkish "Yenidjeh") ..	..	409	..	409	..	819	..	819	6 " Larissa.
3	Tirnova	142	857	..	999	267	1,670	..	1,937	2 " Ditto.
4	Derélu	244	..	..	244	449	..	..	449	5 " Ditto.
	Totals ..	2,047	2,142	347	4,536	3,470	4,017	666	8,153	

Turkish Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population.	Remarks.
				In district of Larissa—
1	Tchoular	8	22	3 hours from Larissa.
2	Ada-Tepé (in Greek "Petra")	6	9	6 „ Ditto.
3	Kiolélee	28	57	5 „ Ditto.
4	Baldjilar	11	20	3½ „ Ditto.
5	Ilidjenlu	32	86	4 „ Ditto.
6	Toy-Obassi	83	184	4 „ Ditto.
7	Hissarlik	91	187	4 „ Ditto.
8	Buyuk-Keshirlu	195	419	4 „ Ditto.
9	Dedé-Viran (in Greek "Dedirani") ..	35	81	6 „ Ditto.
10	Sofiemez	29	57	8 „ Ditto.
11	Soubashi	24	40	5 „ Ditto.
12	Tirkumeshlu	34	83	5 „ Ditto.
13	Yenidjilar (in Greek "Doxara")	27	102	4 „ Ditto.
14	Koradja Oglan	33	66	5 „ Ditto.
				In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
15	Alifaklar*	18	35	5 hours from Yenidjeh.
16	Bashibir*	33	52	5 „ Ditto.
17	Devirmenderch (in Greek "Marmaryani") ..	37	61	4 „ Ditto.
18	Baïram	14	31	1 „ Ditto.
				In sub-district of Tirnova—
19	Errenos	11	14	1 hour from Larissa.
20	Tchairlu	34	67	1 „ Ditto.
21	Dellyler	32	73	1 „ Ditto.
22	Cara-Derch (in Greek "Ligaria")	48	97	2 „ Ditto.
23	Caradja-Viran (in Greek "Caradjol") ..	87	172	2 „ Ditto.
24	Koutaph	30	55	1 „ Ditto.
25	Moussalar	52	107	2 „ Ditto.
				In sub-district of Derélu—
26	Balamut	55	130	1 hour from Derélu.
27	Hassan-Baba	35	80	1 „ Ditto.
28	Cofalar and Ketchélu	19	37	1 „ Ditto.
29	Koz-Derch	14	23	1 „ Ditto.
30	Uriljur	45	76	3 „ Ditto.
31	Cara-Demirler	9	14	1 „ Ditto.
32	Bagishler	50	117	1 „ Ditto.
33	Osmanlou (in Greek "Makri-hor") ..	98	215	2 „ Ditto.
34	Kutchuk-Keshirlu	58	123	2 „ Ditto.
35	Hadji-Obassi	19	52	1 „ Ditto.
	Totals	1,435	3,012	

* Burnt by Greek insurgents in 1878.

Christian Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greeks).	Remarks.
				In district of Larissa—
1	Spillia	149	308	8 hours from Larissa.
				In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
2	Cocouzava	95	201	4 hours from Yenidjeh ("Ayia").
3	Retchani	183	398	½ „ Ditto.
4	Nevoliani	94	198	1 „ Ditto.
5	Selitchani	244	522	2 „ Ditto.
6	Karitza and Tchaf-Agassi	103	453	4 „ Ditto.
7	Thanat	205	470	2½ „ Ditto.
8	Skiti	90	215	2 „ Ditto.
9	Cantanio (also "Skithro")	77	103	6 „ Ditto.
10	Keramit and Phlamoor	266	546	8 „ Ditto.
11	Bolgarini	96	244	6 „ Ditto.
12	Tchiourlu (in Greek "Potamia")	82	153	1½ „ Ditto.
13	Veneto	70	184	10 „ Ditto.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greeks).	Remarks.
				In sub-district of Derélu—
14	Crania	87	264	4 hours from Derélu.
15	Rapshani*	400	836	2 „ Ditto.
16	Ambelakia	291	694	2 „ Ditto.
17	Negeró (in Turkish "Giul-ova")	185	545	5 „ Ditto.
18	Skamnia	187	366	6 „ Ditto.
	Totals	2,904	6,796	

* 182 houses (including 52 shops) burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.

Mixed Turkish and Christian Villages.

No.	Names.	Houses.			Male Population.			Remarks.
		Turkish.	Christian.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Total.	
								In district of Larissa—
1	Topouzlar	57	30	87	88	70	158	2 hours from Larissa.
2	Abdullar	28	3	31	49	9	58	6 „ Ditto.
3	Hadji-Baïraklar	14	9	23	32	19	51	4½ „ Ditto.
4	Souletché	16	13	29	27	31	58	5 „ Ditto.
								In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
5	Dogan	26	41	67	50	70	120	1 hour from Yenidjeh.
6	Kermenlu	20	6	26	36	17	53	2 „ Ditto.
7	Aïdinlu (in Greek "Turkohor")	28	33	61	56	61	117	1 „ Ditto.
								In sub-district of Tirnova—
8	Kozuklar	233	2	235	494	4	498	1 hour from Tirnova.
9	Bey-Tatari	51	35	80	102	77	179	1 „ Ditto.
	Totals	473	172	645	934	367	1,301	

Turkish Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek tenants).	Remarks—Names of Proprietors.
				In district of Larissa—
1	Mentéshirlu	46	137	Atif Bey, Nouri Effendi, and Hadji Atta Effendi.
2	Topouzlar	189	543	Dervish Bey, Raghib Bey, Osman Bey.
3	Sarihemlar	22	68	Hussamulledin Bey and Refaat Bey.
4	Saridjilar	77	282	Raif Agha, Tahir Bey, and Tahsin Bey.
5	Tchoular	33	78	Rashid Bey and Brothers, and Abbas Agha.
6	Sarkoly	20	48	Hadji Hussein Agha and Ibrahim Agha.
7	Keulélee	29	85	Rustem Pasha, Ali Effendi, and his sister.
8	Borazanler	23	59	Bedri Bey and Hassan Bey.
9	Hadji-Obassi	42	85	Hussein Agha, Ibrahim Agha, and Emin Effendi.
10	Yahialar	28	63	Heirs of Shefik Bey and Ali Bey
11	Gherlu	87	225	Cadri Bey and Ahmet Effendi.
12	Hadjimuz	107	262	Sahib Bey, of Constantinople.
13	Dink (in Greek "Rizo-Milo") ..	51	103	Ditto.
14	Kovim-Yeri (in Greek "Coniari") ..	13	31	Hallil Hodja, of Velestino, and Zekeryia Bey.
15	Calivia-Saghir (in Greek "Mikra-Calivia")	13	27	Heirs of Sheïk Bey.
16	Caralar	24	50	Sons of Ethem Agha and Selim Agha.
17	Inch-Henlu	26	64	Fatmeh Hanum.
18	Coloori	22	54	Daughter of Sheriff Agha.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek tenants).	Remarks—Names of Proprietors.
				In district of Larissa (*continued*)—
19	.. ..	2	6	Fatmeh Hanum.
20	Baghardy	19	58	Heirs of Fuad Pasha.
21	Tcheltiktchi	10	32	Ibrahim Pasha, of Larissa.
22	Sofoular	29	77	Taïfur Bey.
23	Kapadjilar	15	44	Ditto.
24	Bakratch	51	111	Heirs of Sheïk Bey and Ali Bey.
25	Sofou-Obassi	19	56	Ferid Effendi.
26	Kilitchler	9	16	Hadji Refaat Bey.
27	Tekkély	26	55	Fatmeh Hanum.
28	Ketchéllu (in Greek "Psihiko") ..	31	87	Ditto.
29	Bobohar	34	95	Crown property.
30	Hadjilar	37	96	Vahid Bey and Ratibeh Hanum.
31	Hassan Tatari	27	69	Vahid Bey and Ibrahim Agha.
32	Hadji-Halliler	28	83	Fatmeh Hanum and Ferid Effendi.
33	Ak-Bounar (in Greek "Taushon") ..	28	62	Ditto.
34	Djambazlar	6	8	Heirs of Hadji Hussein Pasha.
35	Karlughia	19	52	Mehmed Effendi.
36	Agounduklar (in Greek "Loutro") .	26	61	Abbass Agha and Ali Agha.
37	Alitakha	17	56	Haki Effendi.
38	Tossounlar	50	143	Djelbal Effendi.
39	Kentchéhri (in Greek "Koutzobero")	12	20	Sons of Ali Bey and Salih Agha.
40	Doghandji (in Greek "Gounitza") ..	36	76	Heirs of Hourshid Pasha.
41	Kiosk	9	14	Dervish Bey.
42	Moussalar	38	95	Rashid Bey.
43	Elek (in Greek "Filia")	19	40	Heirs of Sheïk Bey.
44	Goutchéri	124	278	Rustem Pasha.
45	Shabanly	39	120	Vahid Bey, Hadji Mehmed Bey, and Ahmet Effendi.
46	Almadar	25	74	Sherif Bey and Mustapha Bey.
47	Bazirgulan (in Greek "Molosh") ..	22	96	Malik Pasha.
48	Bolou-Obassi (in Greek "Boly") ..	31	97	Fatmeh Hanum.
49	Yenik	16	39	Ali Agha.
50	Calivakia	48	123	Ghalib Effendi.
51	Vaccuf-Calivakia	17	32	Vaccuf property.
52	Hendeklu	35	87	Husni Bey and Hallil Agha.
53	Patima	378	1,218	Husni Bey.
54	Geurdik (in Greek "Courtik") ..	47	150	Taïfur Bey.
55	Ayios Dimitri	22	77	Ibrahim Pasha, of Larissa.
56	Derlethan (in Greek "Duvlatan") ..	34	62	Ditto.
57	Petra	31	91	Osman Bey and Nouri Bey.
58	Bayazidlu (in Greek "Orphana") ..	23	67	Ibrahim Pasha, of Larissa.
59	Tcheltiktchi	36	94	Cadir Agha.
60	Samidlu (in Greek "Laspohor") ..	29	100	Rashid Effendi.
61	Yussufiou	41	83	Husni Bey and Djemal Bey.
				In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
62	Tcheltik	27	62	Ibrahim Pasha, of Larissa.
63	Yatirma	46	110	Zuhdi Bey, of Constantinople.
64	Polidendro	18	49	Husni Effendi.
65	Capishtu	17	40	Heirs of Rechid Pasha.
				In sub-district of Tirnova—
66	Orman	24	64	Hairi Bey and sister.
				In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
67	Ortadjilar	..	..	Crown property; tenants have their dwellings in Tirnova.
68	Tchatallar	14	36	Rashid Effendi's sons.
69	Cubil-Agha	..	..	Crown property; tenants have their dwellings in Tirnova.
70	Yenly (in Greek "Yenuli") ..	10	40	Rustem Pasha.
				In sub-district of Derélu—
71	Laspohori	51	126	Heirs of Rechid Pasha.
72	Pirghotos	123	372	Ditto.
73	Eggani	31	88	Ditto.
74	Muhterem	27	54	Ditto.
75	Kiutchuk-Pourlia	26	66	Ditto.
76	Avarnitsa	16	26	Ditto.
77	Kuz-Kioi (in Greek "Carya")* ..	124	290	Ditto.
78	Poliana†	183	361	Ditto.
	Totals	3,220	8,208	

* 25 houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.

† 36 houses burnt by Bashi-Bazouks in 1878.

Christian Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek tenants).	Remarks—Names of Proprietors.
				In district of Larissa—
1	Sirkenly (in Greek "Niamata") ..	10	37	Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
2	Sarimos	13	20	Dr. Yanaki, Greek.
3	Cassab-Alliler	16	30	Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
4	Sandi-Obassi	14	29	Yorgoula and Dimitro, Greeks.
5	Sarratchlar	9	27	Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
6	Kotch-Bassan*	..	..	Ditto.
7	Kiupé-Obassi*	..	..	Ditto.
8	Hadji Mustaphalar	14	42	Ditto.
9	Hissarlik	8	28	Ditto.
10	Buyuk Hálitch	12	41	Ditto.
11	Omerler	15	34	Ditto.
12	Ak-Serai	10	13	Ditto.
				In sub-district of Yenidjeh—
13	Kesridjeh (in Greek "Castri") ..	15	37	Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
14	Bozgoutch (in Greek "Djukahati").	8	11	Ditto.
				In sub-district of Tirnova—
15	Oktchilar	6	10	Abraham Pasha, Armenian.
16	Korou-Tehirpu	11	30	A. Mussuri, British subject.
	Totals	161	384	

* Pasture lands.

Turkish and Christian Joint Estates.

No.	Names.	Houses.	Male Population (Greek tenants).	Remarks—Names of Proprietors.
				In district of Larissa—
1	Sakallar	48	102	Bedri Bey and Dimitri Topali, Greek.
2	Kiutchuk-Haliteh	17	40	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, and Hussein Agha.
3	Inébeyler	133	327	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, Ibrahim Pasha, of Larissa, and C. Tchopoto, Greek.
4	Beztchiler	23	55	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, and Taïfur Bey.
5	Djumerdlu (in Greek "Djarmaldi").	50	184	Dervish Bey, Djellal Effendi, and A. Calpaka, Greek.
6	Bayaslar	43	107	Dervish Bey, Husni Bey, and Tunash Agha, Greek.
7	Irmiteh	27	39	Abraham Pasha, Armenian, and Ali Agha.
8	Kissildu (in Greek "Vloho") ..	56	147	Hairi Bey and Sterindi, Greek.
				In sub-district of Tirnova—
9	Odjak (in Greek "Turnanodess") ..	23	43	Leila Hanum, Emin Effendi, and A. Mussuri, British subjects.
	Totals	420	1,044	

SUMMARY.

Towns, Villages, and Estates in District and Sub-Districts of Larissa, in Thessaly.	Houses.				Male Population.			
	Turkish.	Christian.	Jewish.	Total.	Turks.	Christians (Greeks).	Jews.	Total.
4 towns	2,047	2,142	347	4,536	3,470	4,017	666	8,153
36 Turkish villages	1,435	..	..	1,435	3,042	..	..	3,042
18 Christian villages (Greek)	..	2,964	..	2,964	..	6,796	..	6,796
9 mixed Turkish and Christian villages (Greek) ..	473	172	..	645	934	367	..	1,301
62 villages.								
78 Turkish estates (tenants all Greeks)	..	3,229	..	3,229	..	8,209	..	8,209
16 Christian estates (ditto)	..	161	..	161	..	384	..	384
9 Turkish and Christian joint estates (ditto) ..	..	420	..	420	..	1,044	..	1,044
103 estates.								
Totals	3,955	9,088	347	13,300	7,446	20,816	666	28,928

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Salonica, May 15, 1880.

Inclosure 2 in No. 407.

Vice-Consul Longworth to Consul-General Blunt.

Larissa, May 5, 1880.

SIR, IN compliance with your request I hasten to furnish you with a general description of this town.

Larissa, the capital of Thessaly, is situated on the banks of the River Salambria, in the midst of a woodless, though fertile and extensive plain.

Enclosed by ramparts and entrenchments, when viewed from a distant eminence the aspect of the town is rather old and gloomy, although the view is relieved of its nudity by a few prominent buildings, white domes, minarets, steeples, turrets, and cypress-trees, which, towering above the rest, blend with the whole a little of the grand and imposing, especially so if the eye extends the panorama by taking in the snow-capped Olympus to the north, and the barren and rocky ranges of the Ossa and Milona Mountains to the east and west. Whatever attractive features Larissa may have from without there are scarcely done perceptible from within. Poorly-constructed and walled-in mud huts and houses, badly paved, uneven and dirty streets, general dilapidation, filth, and poverty is as characteristic of this as of any other Turkish town. The more conspicuous objects and edifices are easily defined. There are twenty-seven mosques and six churches. There is the fort with its parapets, the Venetian tower with its public clock, and the huge Byzantine bridge across the river, measuring about 550 feet in length by 20 in breadth. There is also a large and solid (though unfinished) gymnasium, a good Government-house, a well-situated Archbishopric, and some four or five two-storied private dwellings, besides the usual covered bazaars, Turkish baths, coffee-shops and public gardens, which in appearance are much less attractive than those in many other Oriental towns.

Larissa is estimated to contain about 2,500 houses and 900 shops, with a population of about 23,000 souls, of which 14,000 are Mahommedans, 6,000 Christians, and 3,000 Jews. There are 8 Greek schools, 1 Hellenic, 1 primary, 2 rudimentary, and 1 for girls above childhood, the respective pupils of which number 50, 400, 150, and 100, making thus a total of 700. The Turks have two schools, one of which is exclusively for girls, and of about 150 children; 100 frequent the one for boys.

The Jews have also at present a male school, with about 100 pupils. Their girls, however, continue to be taught in those established for Greeks.

Though the town of Larissa is abominably unclean, the inhabitants themselves can scarcely be classed as a wretched, squalid people, for, on the whole, they do not present that appalling picture of moral, mental, and physical degradation so frequently met with in European towns.

They are, moreover, attached to work, are active, intelligent, and persevering, and except among the Turks, few, if any, are to be seen lolling or loitering about in ample idleness.

The general character of the natives may be thus briefly described:—

The Mahommedans are domineering, indolent, and fanatical; the Christians cringing, shrewd, and deceitful; while the Jews are petty, mean, and grasping. The first element is chiefly composed of land-owners, Government officials, soldiers, field-guards, and other men of arms; the second, of professionalists and merchants, tradesmen and innkeepers, fabricators and cultivators, carpenters and masons, tailors and shoemakers, and other handicraftsmen; while the third consists mostly of usurers, cobblers, stall-keepers, pedlers, and other small retailers.

Larissa is essentially commercial, as it is the centre of a grain-yielding province. There is almost, I may say, a Christian monopoly of the import and export trades, for the Turks are not given to speculation, and avoid risk, trouble, and annoyance by selling their crops on the spot.

In conclusion, I may add that the industries of the town are few, primitive, and manual, comprising principally numerous tanneries, brick and tile kilns, candle factories, and fabrics of woollen and cotton stuffs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. Z. LONGWORTH.

No. 408.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 230.)

My Lord, *Rome, May* 20, 1880.

WITH reference to your Lordship's despatch No. 201 of the 11th instant relative to a proposal for a Conference to be held at Berlin or Paris to decide by a majority upon the proper line of frontier to be adopted for Greece, to be placed before the Porte as an alternative for a Boundary Commission in the identic and simultaneous note which Her Majesty's Government have suggested should be addressed to it, and instructing me to inquire of the Italian Government whether they agree to this alternative proposal being comprised in the joint representation to the Porte which Her Majesty's Government have proposed, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I called at the Ministry for Foreign Affairs in the afternoon of the 17th instant (the day on which I received your Lordship's despatch), and after acquainting Count Maffei, whom I saw in the absence of M. Cairoli, with the proposal of Her Majesty's Government, I asked him if the Italian Government would agree to it.

Count Maffei replied that he thought they would be willing to do so, but he asked if I could not leave him the despatch, or the substance of it in writing, for communication to M. Cairoli.

In anticipation of such a request, I had prepared a *Pro-memorid*, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, which I handed to him.

This afternoon, on again calling on Count Maffei, I was informed by him that instructions were about to be sent to General Menabrea to announce to your Lordship the adherence of the Italian Government to the alternative proposal above referred to being comprised in the identic representation to be addressed by the Powers to the Porte.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. PAGET.

Inclosure in No. 408.

Pro-memorid.

WITH reference to the invitation addressed to the Italian Government to act in concert with Her Majesty's Government and the other Treaty Powers in urging upon the Porte the fulfilment of the Treaty of Berlin, Her Majesty's Government consider that an alternative proposal with regard to the Greek frontier might be placed before the Porte in the identic and simultaneous note which Her Majesty's Government have suggested should be addressed to it, and that if for the reasons already set forth by the Turkish Government they are unwilling that a Boundary Commission should meet in Turkish territory, or are unable to guarantee its safety, a Conference should be assembled at Berlin or Paris to consider and decide by a majority upon the proper line of rectification of frontier to be adopted, and that this Conference should at all events be convened and in actual session before the end of June, if by that time a satisfactory reply has not been received from the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government would wish to be informed whether the Italian Government agree to this alternative proposal being comprised in the joint representation to the Porte which Her Majesty's Government have proposed.

No. 409.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 63.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 26, 1880.

I HAVE asked the opinion of the Austro-Hungarian Government on the Bulgarian Nationality Law.

They have not received any particulars about it, but will instruct their Agent at Sophia to advise the Prince to delay its promulgation.

They consider it quite inadmissible, if it is such as is represented by the Roumanians, and speaks of parts of Roumania and Servia as Bulgarian territory, and they do not seem disposed to admit the right of the Bulgarian Government to [? treat] any one class of foreign subjects differently from others.

No. 410.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 64.)

(Telegraphic.) *Vienna, May* 26, 1880.

YOUR telegram No. 104.

Baron Haymerle cannot understand how he should have been supposed to wish that in the note to the Porte anything should be added to what was in your Lordship's Circular. About ten days ago, the Russian Government having intimated that they consider that the note should contain some allusion to the unsatisfactory answer of the Porte to the communication of the Ambassadors about the Montenegrin frontier, he told M. d'Oubril that if this was thought desirable he would make no objection, but he says that he has never expressed an opinion in favour of this or any other departure from the terms of your despatch.

No. 411.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(No. 75.)

(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May* 26, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 107.

Russian Government will not object to French proposition for a Conference at Berlin without alternative, if the other Cabinets agree. Owing to the Emperor being at Czarskoe-Selo, their reply has been delayed, and I shall not get official answer till to-morrow.

No. 412.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26.)

(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 26, 1880.

I HAVE seen Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs to-day, and informed him that all the Commissioners had arrived except Russian, who would leave Salonica as soon as he knew the day of our first meeting; that I had seen the French and Austrian Commissioners; that we hoped that the Turkish Commissioner would be named at once, and the translation of the Règlement circulated. Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs was very evasive at first, saying that I ought to have seen, not him, but the Minister of the Interior. On my showing myself ready to take him at his word, he said that he would communicate that same evening with the Prime Minister as to the day of the meeting, and would have the Règlement circulated. The Austrian Commissioner has read Règlement in Turkish, and says that it is very unsatisfactory, especially in regard to finance.

I saw Assim Pasha yesterday, and ascertained that he [? was appointed] as Turkish Commissioner.

No. 413.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 26, 4 P.M.)

(No. 44.)

(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May* 26, 1880.

YOUR Lordship's No. 73.

Prince Hohenlohe has not yet received any information respecting the proposed Bulgarian Naturalization Law, but will make inquiry at once.

No. 414.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 48.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 26, 1880, 5 P.M.*

PARAGRAPH in King's Speech relating to foreign affairs says: "The last time I addressed the two Chambers I was happy to announce that we were in the best relations with all States and therefore easy the work of conciliation and civilization which embodies our policy in foreign relations. Events have confirmed the anticipation. Confidence in our impartiality attributes to us an honourable part in the diplomatic action for securing the loyal observation of the Treaty of Berlin. The recent initiative of a friendly Power, to which the other Powers, with Italy, have adhered, has for object the removal of difficulties not yet overcome; it is to be hoped, above all, that the pacification of the countries near Montenegro may avert the misfortune of a conflict. With regard to the Hellenic question, an agreement being already established between all the Powers, our efficacious and disinterested participation will not be wanting in seeking a solution in conformity as well with common engagements as with the traditions of our national policy."

No. 415.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 26.)

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May 26, 1880.*

ITALIAN Government have received no official communication relative to the naturalization incident between Bulgaria and Roumania referred to in your telegram No. 80; but one day the Roumanian Chargé d'Affaires, in an unofficial conversation with the Director of the Political Department of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs, read a despatch from his Government protesting against the proceedings of Bulgaria in terms which appeared exaggerated to the Director, who said, however, he had better communicate it officially; but this has not yet been done.

No. 416.

Earl Granville to Mr. Gould.

(No. 32.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 26, 1880, 6:30 P.M.*

WITH reference to your despatch No. 29 of 12th May, the Queen agrees to appointment of M. Marinovitch as Servian Envoy in London.

No. 417.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 9.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 26, 1880.*

IN his telegram No. 253 of the 23rd instant, Sir Henry Layard informs me that Captain Clayton reports that the Kurds are committing fresh ravages and murders, and that great terror prevails amongst the population.

I have to request that your Excellency will call the very serious attention of the Porte to these proceedings, which require to be promptly suppressed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 417*.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.

(No. 207.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 26, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT, for your information, a copy of a telegram from M. de Giers, which has been communicated to me by Prince Labanoff,* agreeing to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government for the presentation of an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte requiring the fulfilment of its obligations under the Berlin Treaty, and asking whether Her Majesty's Government will draft a note on the subject.

I have to request your Excellency to inform M. de Giers that Her Majesty's Government propose that the identic note should follow as nearly as possible the words of my Circular despatch of the 4th instant, and that the language of it should be left to be settled by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople. It is not proposed that fuller details should be entered into, and, as regards Montenegro and Greece, the matters are already being dealt with.

The Austrian Government has agreed to this mode of arranging the wording of the note.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 418.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 78.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 10, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inclose a copy of a note which, in obedience to the instructions contained in Lord Salisbury's despatch No. 38 of the 22nd ultimo, I have addressed to M. Zancoff, inclosing a copy of a letter from Mr. Dillon to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, on the subject of the ill-treatment to which the Mussulmans at Roustchouk were subjected.

I have also the honour to inclose a copy of a further note which I have addressed to his Excellency calling his attention to the differences in the sentences passed by the Court-martial of Varna upon Mussulmans and Bulgarians, as reported by the Acting British Vice-Consul at Varna in the despatch of which I inclose a copy.

M. Zancoff has informed me that the Circular of the late Bulgarian Minister of the Interior, to which Mr. Dillon refers, has been cancelled, and that the Chamber has consented to the proposal which he had submitted to them that General Ehrnrooth, the new Minister of War, should be intrusted with very extensive powers for the suppression of brigandage and the restoration of order in the Eastern portion of the Principality. The Governors of Varna and Roustchouk will be under the orders of General Ehrnrooth, who will leave Sophia the day after to-morrow.

M. Zancoff told me that further reports had been received as to two bands of brigands which had entered Bulgaria from the Dobrudscha. He was inclined to believe that these reports were exaggerated, but it was necessary to take steps to put an end to the disorders which existed. The powers invested in General Ehrnrooth would enable him to do so, and the moderation of his character would insure the Turks being treated with justice.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 418.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Zancoff.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, le 7 Mai, 1880.*

J'AI l'honneur, par ordre de mon Gouvernement, de transmettre à votre Excellence la traduction d'une lettre adressée à son Excellence M. l'Ambassadeur de Sa Majesté à Constantinople, par Mr. Dillon, sujet Anglais résidant près de Roustchouck, à propos des mauvais traitements que les habitants Musulmans du voisinage subissent de la part des Bulgares.

* No. 295.

En vous communiquant cette pièce, M. le Ministre, j'ai été chargé par le Principal Secrétaire de Sa Majesté pour les Affaires Etrangères de ne point vous cacher la pénible impression que ce récit a produit, et la manière défavorable avec laquelle il contraste avec les assurances qui ont été données par le Gouvernement Bulgare aux représentations qui lui ont été faites par cette agence.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 2 in No. 418.

Mr. Dillon to Sir A. H. Layard.

Excellence, *Roustchouk, ce 27 Mars*, 1880.

LES deux articles de la "Voix de la Bulgarie" du 5 Mars, que je me permets de transmettre à votre Excellence, ne peuvent pas être lus sans exciter un sentiment d'indignation. Les Musulmans sont soumis à un système de visites domiciliaires qui sera probablement exécuté par des agents dont la cruauté surpassera celle de l'inquisition. Ce ne sera en effet qu'une croisade contre ces pauvres gens. Les accusations contre les Musulmans sont pour la plupart fausses et tout-à-fait exagérées. La plupart des brigands sont des Bulgares et les quelques Musulmans qui se trouvent mêlés dans les bandes viennent des Balkans. Les habitants des villages n'ont pas d'armes, et ils ont si peu de moyens de défense que pendant l'hiver ils n'ont même pas pu se sauvegarder contre les loups et les renards qui ont dévoré leurs chiens et leur volaille; mais si même on admet qu'il y a eu des occasions où ces pauvres gens ont hébergé des brigands, ils l'ont fait certainement par peur et non pas par sympathie. Il n'y a pas un Musulman qui ose sortir de chez lui après le coucher du soleil, et même pendant la journée les villageois n'osent pas se rendre d'un village à l'autre; et ce sont ces gens-là qui sont censés faire la police pour une population de Bulgares armés. Pendant mes voyages pour le Compassionate Fund j'ai vu des choses qui ont bien démontré l'hostilité des Bulgares envers les Musulmans. A Damogila, pendant que je faisais des distributions de farine, un zaptié Bulgare arrive pour arrêter un Moukhtar Musulman, et malgré ma prière de lui accorder encore quinze minutes pour finir un travail commencé, il le saisit par le collet et le traîne au konak; et quant au zaptié (Bulgare) qui nous avait accompagné de Roustchouk, il resta là comme spectateur impassible.

A Brestovic, j'ai vu le Moukhtar Bulgare de ce village qui menaçait le Moukhtar Musulman; j'ai aussitôt demandé la raison de ces menaces, et voici ce qu'on m'a répondu.

Deux jours auparavant un garçon Musulman était allé chercher de l'eau à une fontaine et a été battu par un jeune Bulgare. Le jeune Musulman s'est plaint au père du Bulgare qui a puni son fils. Le lendemain matin le Bulgare a encore donné des coups au Musulman, et cette fois-ci, ce dernier alla se plaindre au Moukhtar Bulgare; mais au lieu d'être écouté il fut enfermé et battu à un tel point, que le sang coula de sa bouche. Pendant mon séjour dans ce village, on désespérait de la vie de ce garçon. Les Musulmans, ayant manifesté l'intention d'envoyer le garçon à l'hôpital de Roustchouk, ont été immédiatement menacés par les Bulgares et n'ont pas osé donner suite à leur projet. Tel était l'état des affaires quand j'ai quitté Brestovic.

A Stoko un zaptié Bulgare était employé à percevoir 81 piastres par famille à titre de contribution, répartie de la manière suivante:—

	Piastres.
Pour le Moukhtar	24
Pour le Dascal	45
Pour le Masarif	12
	81

Ceux qui ne pouvaient pas payer cette contribution recevaient des coups du zaptié (qui se servait du plat de son sabre), et étaient ensuite emprisonnés. De cette taxe de 45 piastres le maître d'école Musulman ne recevait absolument rien.

En résumé, à ce que j'ai pu constater personnellement, il y a des atrocités de toute sorte qui sont commises tous les jours envers les Musulmans, non-seulement par des personnes ignorantes, mais par des personnes d'éducation et même des fonctionnaires.

Comme exemple, je citerai le cas d'un Notable Bulgare qui, vers la fin de l'année dernière, s'est rendu dans un village du voisinage où il a rassemblé plus de cent des habitants Bulgares, qui ont commencé à battre les Musulmans d'une façon si brutale,

que l'un d'entre eux est mort, par suite de ses blessures, dans l'hôpital de Roustchouk, et malgré que ce fait soit de notoriété publique, le Bulgare se promène impunément dans les rues de Roustchouk.

Inclosure 3 in No. 418.

Mr. Lascelles to M. Zancoff.

M. le Ministre, *Sophia, le 7 Mai*, 1880.

LE Vice-Consul de Sa Majesté à Varna a attiré mon attention sur une sentence qui a été prononcée par le Tribunal Militaire de Varna contre dix Musulmans qui étaient accusés d'avoir volé et tué deux marchands Bulgares près de Silistrie. De ces dix individus trois ont été condamnés à mort, et cinq à de longs termes de travaux forcés; tandis que d'autre part, un Chrétien Bulgare, accusé d'avoir tué un Musulman, n'a été condamné qu'à quatre ans de prison sans travaux forcés, et un second, accusé du crime d'incendiaire, ainsi que d'autres délits, a reçu la même condamnation.

La différence entre les sentences prononcées contre les Musulmans et celles prononcées contre les Bulgares est tellement marquée, que j'ai cru de mon devoir d'appeler là-dessus l'attention de votre Excellence.

Mr. Brophy ajoute que les familles Musulmanes continuent à émigrer en grand nombre, étant forcées de le faire à cause des mauvais traitements qu'elles ne cessent de subir non-seulement de la part des anciens soldats Turcs actuellement licenciés, qui, se trouvant dépourvus de moyens d'existence, se sont mis à piller leurs coreligionnaires.

Je saisis, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 4 in No. 418.

Vice-Consul Brophy to Mr. Lascelles.

Sir, *Varna, April* 21, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to inform you that, in the trial by Court-martial of some of the prisoners in gaol here, ten Mussulmans were accused of having robbed and murdered two Bulgarian traders some months ago near Silistria. Of these ten three were condemned to death, five to various long terms of penal servitude, and three were acquitted. It was while engaged in hunting up the real culprits that the Silistria police burnt and beat to death some innocent persons.

A Bulgarian Christian, accused of killing a Turk, was sentenced to four years' imprisonment without hard labour. Another, charged with arson and other crimes, had a like sentence passed upon him.

The capital sentences have not been carried out as yet, and it is supposed that they will be commuted.

Although just at present not so rife, there has been a great deal of brigandage going on on the Dobrudscha boundary, but the disturbed districts being far distant, I have, not being authorized to proceed thither, been unable to obtain any reliable information either confirming or invalidating the details in the various official Reports from the Governor of Varna and others, which have appeared from time to time in the "Bulgarski Glas," but, as regards the official Report of the affair at Redjeb Mahalesi, printed in the same paper, in which it was stated that the Bulgarian militia had attacked and defeated a band of Turkish brigands at that spot, the facts are in some respects almost the contrary, the men attacked being a small party of the Eastern Roumelian Police, headed by Ichoban Hassan, their sergeant, and the assailants were mostly Bulgarian peasants, and collected by the Pravadi authorities, who not only shot down and burnt some of the Turks who had delivered themselves up, but also completely sacked the village.

It is true that the village of Redjeb Mahalesi is, strictly speaking, in this Principality, but it is one of the numerous places within a long strip of land, stretching from near Kotel (Kayun) to the Black Sea, and assigned by the Boundary Delimitation Commission to Bulgaria, formerly administered by the Turkish authority of Karnabad, Aidos, and Misiora, in Sandjak of Slimia, and which has been since, and still is, governed by the Eastern Roumelian authorities with the consent of the Government of Bulgaria.

Large numbers of Mussulman families still continue to emigrate, forced to do so, they allege, by the ill-treatment and robbery they experience, not only at the hands of ill-

disposed Bulgars, but also from the numerous disbanded Turkish soldiers, who, having no means of subsistence, have taken to preying on their co-religionists.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. G. BROPHY.

No. 419.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 80.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 17, 1880.*

ON the 10th instant Nihat Pasha called upon me to inform me that the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople has been officially informed of his having been appointed to negotiate with the Bulgarian Government for the return of the Mussulman refugees. He added that he had received from Réouf Pasha a list of upwards of 3,000 refugees in the vilayet of Adrianople, and that M. Zancoff had professed his readiness to take measures to facilitate their return.

On the following day I spoke to M. Zancoff on the subject. He said that he wished me clearly to understand that the frontier was open to those refugees who had means of subsistence; as a matter of fact several refugees had already returned in the neighbourhood of Kustendil. Now that Nihat Pasha had at last been appointed by the Porte, he would arrange with him with regard to the return of the refugees in the Vilayet of Adrianople, a list of whom had been communicated by Réouf Pasha, and that he would propose that two persons should be appointed by the Bulgarian Government and Nihat Pasha respectively, who should be sent to facilitate the return of these persons.

In connection with this subject I have the honour to inclose a copy of a letter which I have received from Réouf Pasha, to whom I paid a visit on my way through Adrianople, as well as of the answer which I have addressed to his Excellency.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure 1 in No. 419.

Réouf Pasha to Mr. Lascelles.

M. le Consul-Général, *Andrinople, le 12 Avril, 1880.*

VOUS avez quitté si précipitamment Andrinople lors de votre passage de cette ville que j'ai beaucoup regretté de n'avoir pas pu vous rendre votre visite.

Serais-je indiscret si je venais vous rappeler notre entretien au sujet des Mouhadjirs originaires de Bulgarie, et vous demander quel a été le résultat de vos démarches auprès des autorités de la Principauté. Il m'est impossible, M. le Consul, de vous décrire les souffrances morales de ces pauvres Mouhadjirs; ils veulent regagner leurs villages respectifs; le Vilayet d'Andrinople s'engage à pourvoir aux réfugiés qui retourneront dans leur pays natal des vivres pour un certain laps de temps. J'aime à espérer que vous voudrez bien nous accorder votre appui afin de donner une solution à cette question, qui ne pourra que créer de nouveaux embarras et des complications, si une entente n'est pas établie un moment plus tôt entre la Sublime Porte et la Principauté.

Recevez, &c.
(Signé) RÉOUF.

Inclosure 2 in No. 419.

Mr. Lascelles to Réouf Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général, *Sophia, le 17 Mai, 1880.*

JE m'empresse d'accuser réception de l'aimable lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 12 courant.

La question du retour des réfugiés Musulmans de la Bulgarie, qui se trouvent actuellement dans le Vilayet d'Andrinople est, je l'espère, en train d'être réglée. Son Excellence Nihad Pacha a été officiellement chargé par la Sublime Porte de négocier avec le Gouvernement Bulgare à ce sujet, et d'après ce que son Excellence m'a dit, et les assurances que j'ai reçues du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Principauté, j'ai tout

e u d'espérer qu'il n'y aura plus de difficulté pour le retour de ces Mouhadjirs qui seront munis de moyens d'existence. Je puis vous assurer, Excellence, que je ferai tout mon possible pour faciliter la solution de cette question.

Agréez, &c.
(Signé) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 420.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 515.)
My Lord, *Therapia, May 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 230 of the 16th instant I have the honour to transmit herewith copy of the reply which Sawas Pasha has returned to the collective note of the Representatives of the Signatory Powers, demanding a categorical statement from the Turkish Government as to the reoccupation of the positions ceded to Montenegro.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 420.

Sawas Pasha to the Foreign Ambassadors.

Sublime Porte, le 15 Mai, 1880.

LEURS Excellences les Représentants des Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin m'ont fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 3 Mai un *pro-memorid* collectif par lequel, en se référant à leurs communications précédentes, et d'ordre de leurs Gouvernements, ils informent la Sublime Porte que sa réponse à leur note collective du 24 Avril, "n'a à aucun point de vue été considérée comme satisfaisante, et demandent à la Sublime Porte de leur faire savoir catégoriquement si elle est résolue ou non à réoccuper les positions qu'elle a irrégulièrement évacuées et à procéder à la remise de ces points aux autorités Monténégrines suivant les stipulations précises du mémorandum annexé au dit Protocole."

Si les Puissances ne se montrent point satisfaites des premières explications qui leur ont été données par la Sublime Porte, c'est évidemment que les faits et les circonstances qui ont accompagné les opérations d'évacuation ont été altérés ou dénaturés à leurs yeux. Il importe donc à l'honneur aussi bien qu'à l'intérêt du Gouvernement Impérial que ces faits et ces circonstances soient élucidés et dégagés de toute équivoque. Dans cette pensée la Sublime Porte, faisant appel aux sentiments de haute justice des Puissances, a l'honneur de leur proposer, préalablement à toute décision, de faire sur les lieux mêmes une enquête destinée à mettre au grand jour tous les faits qui se sont produits à l'occasion de cette évacuation. Je suis autorisé à ajouter que le Gouvernement Impérial, comme une preuve non équivoque de sa sincérité, laisse aux Puissances le soin de déterminer la forme et les conditions d'exécution de cette enquête.

La Sublime Porte, dès que la lumière se sera faite au moyen de cette enquête, avisera après délibération avec les Puissances aux mesures propres à aplanir les difficultés actuelles sans donner lieu à de nouveaux conflits et une nouvelle effusion de sang.

(Signé) SAWAS.

No. 421.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 524.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, May 18, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a copy of a despatch which I have received from Her Majesty's Consul at Bourgas, giving an account of the thefts of cattle committed on Mussulmans by Bulgarians near Bourgas.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 421.

Consul Brophy to Sir A. H. Layard.

Bourgas, May 8, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to forward to you statistics in a tabular form showing the amount of cattle, money, &c., plundered by Bulgarians from twenty-one Turkish villages in the mountain districts of Aidos and Karnabad.

The minimum value of the property thus carried off is estimated at 7,000*l.*, but the loss really inflicted is hardly calculable, as scores of families are deprived of their only resource,—the means of tilling the ground or carrying wood.

Manol, the Police Commissary of Aidos, whose name appears as heading the robbers in seven cases of organized raiding, was arrested and imprisoned here for a few days, and then released, without trial, though he was dismissed from his employment; with this insignificant exception, not even the semblance of an attempt to punish the robbers has been made by the authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. A. BROPHY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 421.

CANTONS of Aidos and Karnabad.

Name of Village.	Kilès of Barley.	Kilès of Wheat.	Sheep and Goats.	Oxen.	Horses.	Buffaloes.	Money.	Plundered by—
							Piastres.	
Déré Vakouf ..	12	..	..	2	..	..	3,691	Bulgarian gymnasts.
Kara Aleler ..	..	..	..	1	3	3	..	
Itchmo Vakouf ..	..	..	360	12	1	20	1,100	
Ruptché	6	..	2	..	..	..	602	
Supadjé	..	..	..	7	..	2	5,517	Manol, Commissary of Police of the Canton of Aidos.
Madjarlar ..	115	365	285	71	3	..	1,500	
Total ..	132	365	687	93	7	25	12,710	

The kilè of grain=2 bushels.

CANTONS of Aidos and Karnabad.

Name of Village.	Kilès of Oats.	Kilès of Oats.	Kilès of Barley.	Kilès of Wheat.	Asses.	Mules.	Horses.	Sheep and Goats.	Oxen.	Buffaloes.	Men Killed.	Money.	Plundered by—
												Piastres.	
Keremitlik ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7,063	Manol Commissary of Police of Canton of Aidos.
Tchepeldjèh ..	5	..	17	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,187	Ditto.
Karaveliler ..	..	..	..	..	..	1	..	..	..	..	..	872	Bulgarian gymnasts.
Baryk ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	..	3	..	..	..	Ditto.
Tekenlik (1) ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4	5	..	..	Ditto.
Baghaz Déré ..	..	17	15	8	3	..	3	157	31	21	..	780	Ditto.
Daghan Caza ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15,150	Manol.
Tekenlik (2) ..	18	..	232	..	..	..	2	..	..	1	..	2,000	Manol and his Lieutenant Bezil.
Shirklar ..	..	..	..	..	2	..	1	172	32	18	..	235	Bulgarian gymnasts.
Khotal	..	..	71	..	..	..	1	7	2	..	2	980	Manol.
Kizil Aghatch Yeni Mahallèsi	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	630	36	8	..	2,600	Bulgarian gymnasts.
Tchiflik Mahallé ..	6	..	0	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,706	Manol.
Syra Cayr ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	320	2	1	1	1,950	Bulgarian gymnasts.
Seferkeui ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	500	186	12	3	..	Ditto.
Maraftu ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4,331	Ditto.
Ayvadjik ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	41	2	20	..	..	Ditto.
Total ..	29	17	227½	8	5	1	12	1,821	298	91	6	38,754	

The kilè of grain=2 bushels.

No. 422.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 525.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, May* 18, 1880.

WITH reference to Mr. Consul St. John's Nos. 28 and 30 of the 25th and 27th ultimo, addressed to the Marquis of Salisbury, I have the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship, a copy of a note which I have addressed to the Sublime Porte, in which I have made strong representations on the subject of the state of the district of Prisrend.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. H. LAYARD.

Inclosure in No. 422.

Sir A. H. Layard to Sawas Pasha.

Constantinople, April 30, 1880.

HER Britannic Majesty's Ambassador regrets to say that the reports which he continues to receive from Prisrend give a lamentable picture of the state of anarchy which exists in that part of Albania. Life is no longer safe. Assassinations are almost daily perpetrated. No attempt is made to arrest and punish the assassins. The Christians are subjected to outrages and the Turkish authorities are apparently powerless to protect them. Even the residences of the Consuls are exposed to violation and their inmates to serious peril. On the 18th instant fifteen men armed with Martini rifles forced their way into the Russian Consulate, with the view of seizing and assassinating an Orthodox Greek schoolmaster who, it was thought, had taken refuge there. They were led by a certain Ramadan, the murderer of the Imperial Commissioner Mehet Ali Pasha's telegraphist, who is still at large, and included three zaptiehs, the remainder of the band being well-known murderers. It would appear that on the Russian Consul protesting to the Mutessarif against this outrage, and reproaching him for allowing assassins to go about armed, he was informed by that functionary that there were political reasons for justifying such a course.

The person who is accused of having instigated this attack upon the Russian Consulate is a certain Hadji Osman Effendi, who is believed to have organized the massacre of Mehemet Ali Pasha and his suite. From this incident the Sublime Porte will not fail to see how insecure is the position at Prisrend, of the Consular Body, who are apparently at the mercy of a set of fanatical assassins, whilst the Turkish authorities have either not the means or the will to protect them.

Her Majesty's Ambassador is informed that it has now become impossible for the Catholic clergy and refugees from Yakova to return to that district. The Christian villages in it are being plundered by the Mussulman population, and their inhabitants assassinated, tortured, or violated. In addition the country is now threatened with a famine, and seventeen persons died of starvation in the district of Prisrend at the beginning of this month.

The family of Coursan, headed by a Government official named Murtes Aga, are chiefly concerned with the persecution of Christians. They are said to be protected and encouraged by the Turkish authorities, although they are well known to have taken a prominent part in the murder of Mehemet Ali Pasha. Amongst others who are ill-treating the Christians are three notorious characters named Rousteni, Tako, and Butcha, who levy black mail on every Christian marriage, force the Christians to cultivate their land week-days and Sundays, without wages, and frequently, without any reason, compel a village to pay them 2,000 or 3,000 piastres. Amongst the instances of outrages recently committed upon Christians may be mentioned the following:—The house of a certain Jovo Kovatchevich, in the village of Vartesch, one hour distant from the town of Galan, was attacked by thirteen Mussulmans, who having taken all they could find, placed Jovo and his two sons on a fire, and seriously burnt them up to their waists in order to extort money. They then violated his wife, daughter, and daughters-in-law. About the same time, and also within a short distance of Galan, the house of Jovin Gruich, in the village of Liponiza, was entered by ten Mussulmans, who, on being refused money, poured molten lead on the man's head.

Her Britannic Majesty's Ambassador feels it his duty to call the most serious attention of the Porte to the state of things he has described. He trusts that the statements of Her Majesty's Consul at Prisrend, founded upon sufficient information, will not meet with a categorical denial, and be attributed to malevolent sources, as they were on a former instance in a telegram to his Excellency Musurus Pasha, of the 17th February last, communicated to Lord Salisbury. In that telegram the name of the place at which the assassinations were stated by Her Majesty's Consul to have been committed, and where a Catholic priest was threatened with assassination, not actually assasinated, was changed from Ipek to Ichtich, and, consequently, the denial was easy. Nor will the Porte, Her Majesty's Ambassador ventures to believe, still maintain, as in the above-mentioned telegram, "that the most perfect tranquillity and the most perfect harmony between Mussulmans and Christians exist in those localities." Her Majesty's Ambassador cannot but believe that the Porte has been misled by the reports of the local authorities, who by taking no adequate measures to put an end to the anarchy which reigns in the districts of Prisrend, Jakova, Ipek, Pristina, and Galan, and to protect the Sultan's Christian subjects, are exposing the Turkish Government to the gravest responsibility.

No. 423.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 27.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May* 17, 1880.

IN a despatch dated the 19th November, 1879 (No. 60 in "Turkey No. 3, 1879"), Sir A. H. Layard informs the Marquis of Salisbury as follows:—

"When I saw Safvet Pasha yesterday at his usual reception, he read me a letter from Assim Pasha, one of the Turkish members of the European Commission for the organisation of Eastern Roumelia, stating that he had not submitted the Firman granting the new Organic Law to Crete to the Commission, as he had been instructed to do, as on showing the draft of it to some of its members, he found that the British and Austrian Commissioners insisted upon the right of discussing and approving every Article in it."

On referring to the Protocols of the proceedings of the Eastern Roumelian Commission (Protocole No. 16, séance du $\frac{14}{26}$ Novembre, 1878, p. 289. "Turkey No. 9, 1879"), it would appear that Safvet Pasha must have been acting under a misapprehension, as no such right seems to have been insisted upon. What occurred was as follows:—The Turkish Commissioners laid a copy of the Cretan Règlement, as amended, on the table. On being asked with what object they did so, they declined to reply. A general discussion then arose, which was terminated by the President, Baron de Ring, announcing, "qu'il reste entendu que la Commission prend officiellement acte du dépôt par les Commissaires de la Turquie du Firman Impérial apportant des changements au Règlement Organique de l'Ile de Crète de 1868. L'Assemblée prend également acte du désir exprimé par plusieurs de ses membres de demander officieusement aux Délégués Ottomans de fournir à la Commission des explications sur le but de ce dépôt."

The general feeling of the Commission seems to have been that the text of Article XXIII was not very clear as to whether the words "ces travaux," in the last paragraph, included the Cretan Règlement Organique or not.

It appears to me that, on the whole, the natural meaning of Article XXIII is that these words should apply to the labours of the Commissions Spéciales mentioned in paragraph No. 3, and to them only. Perhaps, if it were necessary, there would be no insuperable difficulty in extending their meaning, so as to include the amendment of the Cretan Règlement Organique of 1868; but the amending Firman being promulgated, and the Règlement being said to give satisfaction to the population, nothing but harm could probably result now from reopening the question of the government of the island. Nor do I anticipate that any loss will accrue to the other provinces of Turkey in Europe from the Commission waiving any claim it may possess in the matter. Even if in some respects it should appear, as it probably will, that improvements can be made on the enactments of the Cretan Règlement, it would be difficult, if not impossible, for the Turkish Government to refuse to accept them, merely on the ground that Article XXIII speaks of the application to the other provinces of "des Règlements analogues," as the word "analogues" cannot be said to imply anything except a very general resemblance, and not one in any sense confined within narrow or technical limits.

Before leaving England I consulted Lord Tenterden as to what the view of Her Majesty's Government on the subject was, and I ascertained from him that it was not and never had been the intention that the Eastern Roumelian Commission should sit in judgment on the Cretan Règlement. I have, nevertheless, thought it advisable, in consequence of the discrepancy between the statements of the Grand Vizier and those contained in the Protocols, to call your Lordship's attention to what has passed on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 424.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 27.)

(No. 8.)
My Lord, *Brussels, May* 16, 1880.

I AM anxious to make a few observations on the despatch of Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, addressed to your Lordship on the 4th May, in regard to the work of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin. With the general views of my predecessor as to the nature and causes of the evils now affecting Turkey, I need hardly say that I entirely agree. They are patent and obvious to every one who has studied the subject. I also entirely agree with the general principle, that in decentralization alone can any true remedy be found. But I hardly think that Sir Henry Drummond Wolff has stated with adequate fullness the differences between Article XXIII and those Articles of the Berlin Treaty under which the Eastern Roumelian Statut Organique was drawn up.

It is true, indeed, as he observes, that in Eastern Roumelia the Commission was supreme, while under Article XXIII it has only a consultative voice. But that is not all. Article XXIII does not speak of a "Statut Organique," but only of "des Règlements Organiques," and the Cretan Règlement, not the Roumelian Statute, is to be their model. The Article also limits these "Règlements" to "les besoins locaux," and the first application of the reforms is left entirely to the Porte, and is not protected by the ægis of the Commission, as was the case in Eastern Roumelia.

Therefore, it must be remembered that the Sublime Porte is furnished by Article XXIII itself with formidable opportunities for "lowering the standard of reform," and that the Commission will, upon many important points, be obliged to rely upon persuasion and an appeal to the absolute necessity of change, if the Turkish Empire is to continue to exist, rather than upon the mere text of the Article itself. In any case, I consider that it would be most dangerous to trust too much to the analogy of the Articles under which the Eastern Roumelian Statute was called into being, as any such line of argument would

leave the person using it open to the obvious retort that the Eastern Roumelian Statute was not in point.

To the assurances given by the Grand Vizier and M. Parin, and other Turkish officials to Sir Henry Drummond Wolff, and mentioned by him to the Marquis of Salisbury in his despatches Nos. 6 and 8 of "Turkey No. 7, 1879," I must respectfully decline to attach any importance.

To believe that it is the wish of any Turkish official connected with the Palace to introduce the Eastern Roumelian Statute, in its vital particulars, into the other provinces of the Empire, is to believe that which, on the face of it, is impossible. The Statute for Eastern Roumelia has made that province in theory, and still more in practice, a tributary State, and the officials mentioned in the above despatches were therefore expressing a wish for the very object they most dread. "The traditional indolence of the Turks," alluded to by Sir Henry Drummond Wolff in his despatch of the 4th May, had probably prevented the officials, named by him in his despatches Nos. 6 and 8 of "Turkey No. 7, 1879," from reading the Eastern Roumelian Statute, or from understanding it if they had read it.

I can only suppose that Sir Henry Drummond Wolff considered it worth his while to convey to the Marquis of Salisbury the expressions used by them, in the hope that the admissions thereby made might be found of use on a subsequent occasion.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 425.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 9. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 18, 1880.

My Lord,

YESTERDAY evening, the 17th, I had a conversation with Baron Haymerle, the substance of which I think it desirable to convey to your Lordship.

Our conversation fell under two heads: there was first a discussion of certain points of detail, chiefly financial, connected with the Cretan Règlement and the Eastern Roumelian Organic Statute. This was followed by the consideration of how any "Règlement" could be got to work in the provinces affected by the XXIIIrd Article of the Treaty of Berlin. The principal reason of the present condition of the Turkish Empire, Baron Haymerle observed, was not the absence of good laws, but the utter failure to secure their practical application, and, consequently, the question was whether any, and if so, what guarantees could be taken against a repetition of this failure. Could also any guarantees be contained in the Règlements themselves.

To this I replied that the only guarantee which suggested itself to my mind was to carry out the utmost decentralization possible of the financial system of Turkey, and to make the appointment of the Governor-General the principal connecting link between the Porte and each province.

Baron Haymerle answered that care must be taken that this link should be a real not a sham link, and that selections such as that of Prince Vogorides should not be repeated. Prince Vogorides, he said, was a weakling, governed by the Bulgarian mob. It was impossible to deny that not only the Turks, but also the Greeks in Eastern Roumelia were suffering the grossest oppression, both as regarded property and person. The former were clearly doomed to extirpation or expulsion from the province. Baron Haymerle seemed to be of opinion that the consent of the Five Great Powers to the appointment of Prince Vogorides had not been altogether conducive to a successful choice. I said I supposed the result had been the selection of what might be termed the common denominator of the jealousies of these Powers. I then proceeded to ask Baron Haymerle whether, assuming the necessary men to exist, the present Ministry at Constantinople would not, in his opinion, be an almost fatal obstacle to the choice of good Governors-General. The best men in Turkey, it was generally believed, had been sent into exile, or, in any case, removed to the most distant Asiatic provinces. Baron Haymerle said he thought the men might be found to govern the provinces, though it was unfortunately true that good men were not too numerous. As to the present Ministry, it would not last for ever, and if it fell it was possible Kaireddin Pasha would be restored; but the Sultan had certainly never been more free from Ministerial control than at this moment, being surrounded by phantom Ministers, and entirely in the hands of favourites. Baron Haymerle seemed not to disagree from the opinion which I told him Sir Henry Elliot had

expressed to me, that the Sultan, with all his professions, was, after all, only a cunning and plausible Oriental.

In regard to decentralization generally, it must, he went on to say, be recollected that Article XXIII conferred powers on the Commission widely different from those contained in the Article under which the Organic Statute for Eastern Roumelia had been drawn up. The voice of the Commission was purely Consultative; the Article spoke of a "Règlement," not of a "Statut Organique;" it made "les besoins locaux" not autonomy, the object of the "Règlement," it did not contain any clauses such as those under which Chapter XII of the Statut Organique, relating to the militia, had been drawn up. Baron Haymerle in fact touched the very points mentioned by me in my observations, addressed to your Lordship, on Sir Henry Wolff's despatch. I replied to these observations, that I quite understood that the Sublime Porte had a very strong technical position, if it chose to be recalcitrant, and that, in order to obtain the necessary reforms, persuasion and the appeals to facts would have to be relied upon more than the letter of the Article. Baron Haymerle said this was no doubt so, and he summed up the conversation by saying that the general position of the Austro-Hungarian Government was this, that they desired reforms to be carried out in what was left of European Turkey such as would secure the interests of all classes of the population apart from race and religion, and would, at the same time, maintain a degree of authority in the hands of the Central Government, sufficient to keep the different races and religions from mutual violence; that after what had happened in Eastern Roumelia, it was absolutely necessary, in the name of the commonest principles of justice and humanity, that the Mussulman population should be protected; that, if this was not done, civil war would break out, and that he would not be responsible for the consequences; a European war would follow inevitably. If, on the other hand, the necessary reforms could be carried out, a system might be founded which would be the basis of a better and permanent order of things, one which might gradually take the place of the domination of the Turks. This domination was slowly but surely dying, if for no other reason, because of the tendency of the Turkish, as compared with the Christian population, to diminish. I said that I believed I should be justified in saying that the wishes of Her Majesty's Government were similar, but that I had no authority to speak on the general policy of the Government, and should be travelling outside my province if I did so, more especially as Mr. Goschen was coming to Vienna, and could speak with a weight to which I could lay no claim.

The last observation that Baron Haymerle made was that he was especially anxious that Mr. Gladstone should realize the greater proportion in which different races and religions were intermingled in the provinces, affected by Article XXIII, than they had been in Servia or Roumania, or even in Bulgaria, and how conflicting the opinions of the greatest authorities were on the ethnography of those regions.

In reply to a question from myself, he thought that perhaps the Provincial Assemblies, if once they could be got to work, might be made the foundation of a sort of Central Council General, containing a representative element, though hardly of a Parliament in the proper acceptation of the term.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE

No. 426.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 10. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 19, 1880.

My Lord,

I YESTERDAY met Baron Kállay, now Under Secretary at the Foreign Office, and formerly Austro-Hungarian member of the Eastern Roumelian Commission, in order to ascertain his views on several points connected with Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin.

He in the first place informed me that the views of his Government in regard to the right of the Commission to advise upon the Cretan Règlement were substantially the same as those contained in my despatch No. 7 of the 17th instant.

We then proceeded to discuss how decentralization could be carried out in Turkey, and this immediately brought us to the consideration of the financial administration. I told Baron Kállay that my own idea was that the Governor-General should be appointed for a fixed term; that the whole of the employés, whether concerned in the collection of the direct or the indirect taxes, between which in practice it was often difficult to dis-

tinguish, should be appointed by him; that the Sultan should be given a fixed charge on the provincial revenues, and that, after the deduction of this charge, the remainder should be appropriated to provincial objects, under the control of the Provincial Assembly. Baron Kállay observed that he hoped I intended that the Central Government should still retain the power of making the taxes, otherwise one set of taxes would be levied in one part of the Empire and another in another. It would also, he said, be necessary that the Central Government should receive a fixed percentage of the revenue, and not a fixed sum, otherwise in a bad year the provinces would be ruined, and in a good year the Central Government would be deprived of its fair share. I said that what I had intended was a percentage, and I quoted the arrangement existing between Hungary and Croatia. In regard to taxation the Provincial Assembly might have the power of levying "des centimes additionnels."

Baron Kállay next observed that of course the uncertain tenure of all Turkish Ministers had been the curse of the country; on the other hand, the appointment for a fixed term might end in saddling the country with another edition of Prince Vogorides, of whom he expressed the lowest opinion. There was in fact a great deal to be said on both sides on the question of tenure; but, as in the case of the provinces affected by Article XXIII, the Powers had no veto, it would be easier for the Porte to make a good choice if it wished to do so; and as in these provinces the Governor-General would not be hampered by the presence of a Bulgarian militia he might, with the assistance of a good gendarmerie, maintain order and his own dignity and authority. A good gendarmerie was the real basis of all reform. It was absolutely useless proclaiming, "Les droits des citoyens," and making elaborate "Règlements" for the business of the General Assembly if person and property were not safe, and if the prisons were full of unconvicted prisoners.

I said that I thought the provisions of the Eastern Roumelian Organic Statute were defective on the latter point. No true gaol delivery was provided for, so far as I could see, though doubtless the Assembly could make a law on the subject, if it chose to do so and knew how to set about it. It also seemed to me that the valuation of property was not adequately provided, while Chapters IV and VI, which I understood to have been mainly the work of Baron de Ring, were much too elaborate, and altogether more applicable to a highly civilized and wealthy country like France than to a Turkish province. Baron Kállay said this was so. The result of these Chapters had been to saddle Eastern Roumelia with a large and expensive civil service who did little besides draw salaries. This, together with the expenditure on the militia, was ruining the province. The same thing was happening in Bulgaria. These two Chapters were, however, very plausible in appearance, and the Sublime Porte would, probably for that reason, be quite ready to adopt them, while, owing to the manner in which the various complicated arrangements made under them dovetailed into one another, it would be very difficult to adopt part of them without having to adopt the whole, more especially as they were intended to secure an object, without which the province would fall to pieces, viz., the effectual local representation of the Governor-General. If a purely democratic system of Government were introduced, there would inevitably be a struggle of races, followed by bloodshed and ending in the survival of the strongest.

On the military question Baron Kállay said that, while the last person to defend the Bedel-i-Askerié ("Taxe d'Exonération") in theory, he was very doubtful if the Commission under Article XXIII had any right to touch the question, and he said the same of the question of the vacouf lands. These observations led him to a repetition of the arguments used the previous night by Baron Haymerlé as to the limited nature of the powers conferred on the Commission by Article XXIII. To these arguments I made the same reply as I had made to Baron Haymerlé.

Throughout the conversation I observed a tendency on the part of Baron Kállay to minimise the powers of the Commission. He did not conceal from me, and I understand he does not conceal from anybody, his own belief that the Government of the Sultan is in a desperate condition; that it has neither the means, nor the men, nor the wish wherewith to reform; that it will either reject all good advice, or, in practice, throw it to the four winds of heaven; and that this conduct will precipitate that crisis which is evidently, above all things, dreaded in this Empire, especially in Hungary, to which country Baron Kállay belongs. He would evidently, therefore, prefer to ask for very little, in the hope that the Porte might possibly carry out that little, and thereby stave off the crisis.

Before our conversation closed we returned to the subject of the imposition of the taxes, as distinct from the appropriation of their proceeds. I said that I understood that most of the direct taxes in Turkey are old customary taxes, though occasionally varied by more recent legislation. I therefore hoped that it might be possible so to arrange that the

Central Government should continue to retain the power to make the laws upon which the taxes depended; otherwise, one system of taxation might grow up in Macedonia and another in Thrace, as Baron Kállay had himself very justly observed, but that I considered it was a *sine qud non* that the Civil Service should depend on the Provincial Government, and that the proceeds of the taxes should be paid into a Provincial Treasury, and appropriated by a Provincial Assembly. If, besides this, the Sultan was only given a fixed percentage, he would thereby be deprived of the principal motive for pressing the provinces unduly. I had always understood that the chief evil of the Turkish financial system lay, not so much in the amount of the taxes imposed, as in the arbitrary and tyrannical methods of assessing and collecting them. Baron Kállay said I ought to have added to these the terrible delay in collection, which often prevented the gathering of the crops.

My general impression, to sum up this conversation, is that, while on the financial question there will probably be no marked divergence between myself and the Austro-Hungarian Commissioner, I shall not be able to rely on his support in urging the Turkish Commissioner to include in the Règlement any points not quite clearly within its rather ill-defined limits, and not agreeable to the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMOND FITZMAURICE.

No. 427.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 243. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 19, 1880.*

I HAVE spoken to Baron Haymerle of the course which your Lordship had proposed to Count Károlyi to follow in regard to the note to be addressed to the Porte, as mentioned in your telegram to me of the 15th instant.

His Excellency said that he had personally no objection to the note being drawn up by the Representatives at Constantinople upon the basis of your Lordship's despatch of the 4th instant; but, as he had already intimated at Berlin that it might be a more convenient mode of proceeding if your Lordship were to prepare the draft of it, he would wish to know the view taken by the German Government before speaking more positively.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 428.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 246.)
My Lord, *Vienna, May 20, 1880.*

I INFORMED your Lordship by telegraph this morning that Baron Haymerle had agreed to your Lordship's proposal that the wording of the note calling upon the Porte to carry out the unexecuted provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be arranged by the Representatives of the Powers at Constantinople on the basis of your Circular despatch.

In reply to an inquiry that I then made, his Excellency sent to me this afternoon to inform me further that the Imperial Government likewise agree that the alternative of a Conference of the Ambassadors upon the Greek Frontier question, as suggested in your despatch No. 223, should be inserted in the note.

Count Károlyi is being instructed to notify to your Lordship the acceptance by his Government of these proposals.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 429.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 247.) *Vienna, May 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

IT is understood that Prince Milan of Servia proposes to pay a visit to Vienna in the course of next month, when no doubt every effort will be made to convince His Highness of the friendly disposition of the Imperial Government towards the Principality.

It is hoped that the negotiations for the Treaty of Commerce between Austria-Hungary and Servia may commence shortly after the ratification of the Railway Convention by the Skuptschina; but, as the Treaty will require the ratification both of the Austrian and the Hungarian Parliament, the two Governments of this Monarchy have in the first instance to come to an agreement between themselves with respect to it, and the expectations of the Hungarians are understood to be rather excessive.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 430.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 248. Confidential.) *Vienna, May 20, 1880.*

My Lord,

LORD E. FITZMAURICE has reported to your Lordship the substance of his conversations with Baron Haymerle and Baron Kallay.

I asked the latter to-day whether, now that he was fully acquainted with the spirit in which Her Majesty's Commissioner would enter upon his duties, he did feel confident of there being a cordial co-operation between him and his Austrian colleague.

Baron Kallay said that his own opinions coincided so closely with almost all of those expressed by Lord Edmond that he saw no reason to doubt that the two Commissioners would be able to pull thoroughly together, especially as their Governments were united in considering that decentralization was the principle to be kept in view.

M. Kallay, in common with every one who has paid the slightest attention to the working of the system in force in Turkey, is aware of the evils resulting from the necessity of constant reference to Constantinople, by which well-intentioned Governors are habitually frustrated in every attempt to improve their districts; but I gathered from him that, although he would relieve the provinces from the incubus of this central control, he would wish to leave very considerable authority in the hands of the Governor-General, and would not put too much power into those of elective bodies.

It is, in his opinion, essential to protect the minorities from the tyranny which, if there is not some controlling authority, they are sure to meet with from the majority, whether it consists of the Mussulmans, the Catholics, or the Orthodox, of Turks, Greeks, or Bulgarians.

The example of what is at present going on in Bulgaria and Eastern Roumelia is, in his opinion, a warning against having one class too much at the mercy of another, for M. Kallay believes that, in districts where the Turks or Greeks are in the ascendant, they would probably act towards the others with no greater consideration than the Bulgarians have shown to them.

Attributing the present deplorable condition of Eastern Roumelia to the incompetence of the Governor-General rather than to defects in the Organic Statute, M. Kallay would not think it prudent to repeat the experiment of giving an absolutely fixed tenure to the Governors, though means should, if possible, be found to control the constant and capricious changes which have been productive of so much evil.

Although Baron Kallay said he must be understood as speaking for himself and not for his Government, his opinion will have so much weight with Baron Haymerle that I have thought it right to report his language to your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 431.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 21, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt on the 19th instant of your Lordship's despatches Nos. 1 to 6 inclusive of the previous day, which were brought to Paris by the Queen's Foreign Service Messenger, Captain Player.

I need not assure your Lordship that my proceedings on assuming the duties confided to me as Her Majesty's Special Ambassador to His Imperial Majesty the Sultan of Turkey will be strictly guided by the instructions with which I have been furnished by Her Majesty's Government, and which are contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 1.

I purpose to embark for Constantinople from Trieste on board Her Majesty's ship "Helicon" in the course of Sunday, the 23rd instant, and shall probably reach that capital on the following Friday.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 432.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 3. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, May 22, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that I had yesterday a long and interesting interview with Baron Haymerle, the Austrian Prime Minister. Sir Henry Elliot introduced me, and was present during the interview.

Baron Haymerle began the conversation by expressing his satisfaction that Her Majesty's Government had taken their stand on the Berlin Treaty, and his concurrence with the views put forward in your Lordship's Circular of the 4th instant, only adding that he trusted that the Powers would consider, with the most anxious care, how far they might eventually be led by each successive step to which they might agree. On this point he was very emphatic. He then proceeded to discuss *seriatim* all the most salient points of the situation in the East.

He alluded, in the first instance, to the alternative proposals made to Turkey with regard to the settlement of the Greek frontier, and on my asking him which course he would prefer that Turkey should adopt, expressed his hope that the Porte might accept the proposal of Lord Salisbury for a Commission to examine the frontier on the spot. He should view this result with greater satisfaction than he would see the Powers driven to accept the alternative of a Conference at Berlin. I could not, however, discover any other reason for this preference than the apprehension which his Excellency expressed, lest the opportunity should be taken of such a Conference to introduce further questions connected with the East, a result to which he would entertain the gravest objection. Sir Henry Elliot justly remarked, in reply, that it was very easy to take precautions which would entirely obviate such a risk.

Baron Haymerle spoke warmly with regard to the propriety of doing justice to Greece, and expressed his intention to support any step taken by Her Majesty's Government in that direction. In reply to a question on my part as to the course for which he would be prepared in the case of the Porte refusing to accept the decision of the Powers, his Excellency gave me clearly to understand that the Austrian Government would be most reluctant that any material pressure should be used. He appeared somewhat unwilling to face or discuss the contingency, though I reminded him that, in putting the question, I had in mind his own observation that the results of each step to be taken should be thoroughly examined in concert beforehand.

We next discussed the eventuality of a portion of the population assigned to the Greeks, offering forcible resistance like the Albanians in the case of Montenegro. I pointed out, in accordance with my instructions, how undesirable it would be that there should be any forcible annexation to Greece of an unwilling Mussulman population, which would be a source of danger and insecurity. I introduced this point in view of the urgent importance that instructions may be given to the Austrian Representative for tracing the new frontier to keep this cardinal point well in view; but I clearly explained that this caution on the part of Her Majesty's Government, which the Albanian proceedings had rendered so

necessary, must not be held to imply that they were not most anxious to do full justice to Greece. I considered it important to impress this view on Baron Haymerle, as, while it seems clear that the Italians will be anxious to trench as little as possible on territory occupied by Albanians while satisfying Greece, it did not appear equally clear to me that the Austrian view would be identical. In some respects, in view of possible Italian projects, the Austrians might not regret the extension of Greece in that direction.

On the question as to the mode in which the Powers should deal with the matter if the Greeks should be unable to occupy the territory assigned to them, Baron Haymerle held much the same language as what I described to your Lordship in my despatch No. 1, as used by M. de Freycinet. Greece must manage to occupy her new acquisition as best she could. His Excellency just threw in the suggestion that perhaps something might be done from the side of the sea ("quelque chose du côté de la mer"), but he clearly contemplates that Greece must solve the question for herself. I found that in this, as in the Albanian difficulty with Montenegro, the Austrian Government view the possibility of any eventual combined demonstration on the part of the Powers with real alarm, as likely indeed to produce dangers and evils more serious than those which they might be intended to cure.

Baron Haymerle spoke at great length and with much earnestness on the pending Montenegrin difficulty. The Austrian Government were quite resolved not to take any military steps to coerce the Albanians, nor could they permit any other individual Power to undertake the task. He hoped and believed that the Turks would by the establishment of a military cordon compel the Albanians to submit, and indeed already there were symptoms of the enthusiasm dying away and provisions becoming scarce, and that with time and patience the movement would die out and the Montenegrins be able to occupy the territory. Dealing with the confidential suggestion of your Lordship with regard to a piece of territory to be given instead to the Montenegrins towards the north, but now in the occupation of Austria, his Excellency declared very emphatically his inability to accede to it. He gave two reasons: the one, that any cession of territory in that direction would weaken Austrian authority; the other, that it would trench on that belt of territory already too narrow which separated Montenegro and Servia. He added that it touched the valley through which alone a railway could be constructed south. He threw out, but in a very vague way, the idea that the Turks might give compensation to Montenegro through another bit of land to the south of Montenegro in the direction of the sea, though stating that he thought a third change in the territory offered to be undesirable; he also suggested that, perhaps, something might be done by money, but on the whole, he was clearly of opinion that the present difficulty must be got over by time and by holding the Porte to isolate the insurgents.

Baron Haymerle appealed to me whether the Liberal party in England were not opposed to intervention, and especially intervention to assign a population to another Power against its will. I acknowledged that the Liberal party certainly viewed the development of the nationalities in the Balkan Peninsula with satisfaction, and that it was repugnant to their principles to transfer an unwilling population. On the other hand, however, there was doubtless the difficulty of the Treaty stipulations to which the Powers had been parties. Baron Haymerle then said, with much animation, that Treaties could only be executed so far as it was possible—that there were limits beyond which it was impossible to go. He brought up the Treaty of Luxembourg, and finally dilated on the insignificant extent of territory and the very small number of inhabitants round whom the difficulty turned. Was it worth while, in so small a matter, for the Powers to take action which might lead to complications beyond all calculation? I asked Baron Haymerle what Power he considered mainly interested in the question after themselves. He answered, "Russia—not from any real interest, but on sentimental grounds." In reply to my inquiry whether Austria and Russia could not come to some preliminary arrangement on the principle indicated to him by Sir Henry Elliot, and reported to your Lordship, namely, that the Powers most interested in any question should endeavour themselves, in the first instance, to agree on some solution, he answered quickly that "that was quite impossible."

The conversation next turned on the question of Eastern Roumelia and the reported oppression of the Mussulmans in that province. I understood from Baron Haymerle that, in his view, matters were improving, and I inferred from his remarks that the Austrian Government had not come to the point of considering whether any steps ought to be taken in this case.

Turning to a different subject, his Excellency said: "I presume Her Majesty's Government, in calling attention to certain portions of the Treaty of Berlin, and pressing for the execution of certain stipulations, do not accept that portion of the Treaty only? They accept the whole?" I replied that we stood on the basis of the Berlin Treaty, and loyally accepted it. The point of this somewhat anxious question became apparent to me

when Baron Haymerle asked me a few minutes later whether I had anything to say on the subject of Bosnia and Herzegovina. I simply answered, "No." He then proceeded warmly to defend the action of the Austrian Government in this matter; but as the position taken up by Austria on this question is well known to your Lordship, I need not state his arguments. He concluded, however, with some decided phrases as to the permanency of the occupation. He wished it to be very distinctly understood that the Austrian Government did not consider that their occupation could terminate. Light is thrown by these phrases of Baron Haymerle on a remark made to me by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor, and reported by me to your Lordship in my despatch No. 4, Secret, of yesterday, to the effect that Austria did not wish to extend her position, but that she would certainly maintain it.

Baron Haymerle's language on the Armenian question was cordial and satisfactory, so far as meeting the wishes and views of England for co-operation. I dwelt particularly on the hope entertained by Her Majesty's Government, that the concert of Europe might be extended to reforms in the Asiatic dominions of the Sultan, and his Excellency promised not only formal but cordial co-operation.

I need not state to your Lordship in any detail what was said at this interview about the reforms to be introduced in the Turkish provinces under Article XXIII of the Treaty of Berlin, because Lord Edmond Fitzmaurice has reported to your Lordship the substance of the conversation which he had with Baron Haymerle on this subject. His Excellency's observations to me were very similar in tone. The Austrian Government are desirous of establishing a very real link between the Sultan and the provinces. They are much less in favour of autonomy than Her Majesty's Government; they have less confidence in it. They believe the population to be insufficiently prepared for it, and I am inclined to think that they further fear that the extension of the principle of autonomy would strike a severer blow than they are prepared to inflict on the Sultan's rule. The conversation naturally led up to the most important question of all, namely, the extent to which Austria and England respectively are concerned in the maintenance of the Ottoman Empire. I gathered from the whole tenour of Baron Haymerle's views that the Austrian Government are exceedingly anxious that that rule should not break down, and that they will be guided as to the degree of support which they may give to this or that proposal of reform by their estimate of its bearing on the maintenance of the Turkish Empire. I was led to the belief that Austria would rather abstain from pressing for very thorough reform than run the risk of bringing matters to a crisis by the demand for them. I consequently thought it right to be most explicit in stating the view of Her Majesty's Government, that, if the Porte refuses the necessary reforms, England will certainly not consider that her special interests are involved in saving the Turkish Empire from extinction. On this Baron Haymerle remarked that he had just read a telegraphic summary of Mr. Gladstone's speech on the Address, in which he had used almost the identical phrases I had just uttered. I was very urgent with his Excellency that it was far more dangerous, from his own point of view, to abstain from pressing reforms than to demand them, as, unless reforms were made, the end would certainly come. It appeared to me, under the circumstances, to be almost as necessary to convince Austria of the sincerity and earnestness with which Her Majesty's Government entertain this view as to convince the Porte itself.

At the close of our conversation, which lasted almost two hours, and which was throughout of the most cordial character, Baron Haymerle again expressed his sincere wish to act cordially with England, his confident belief in the identity of our interests on the most important points, and his hope that the European concert would be maintained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 433.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 4. Secret.)

My Lord, "*Helicon*," *Trieste, May* 23, 1880.

HIS Imperial and Royal Majesty the Emperor of Austria did me the honour of expressing a wish to see me, and received me yesterday at an audience which lasted a little over half-an-hour.

His Majesty was most friendly and cordial in his manner, and expressed his gratification that Her Majesty's Government were proceeding on the basis of the Berlin Treaty, thus giving a continuity to the policy of England.

His Majesty spoke very warmly of the Greeks, and hoped that their claims would be

dealt with very liberally. They had been very moderate in action, and their moderation had caused them to lose the moment most favourable for their interests. But, like Baron Haymerle, His Imperial Majesty deprecated material intervention both in this case and in that of Montenegro. Armed intervention might so easily lead to a schism among the Powers, and open most dangerous questions. He hoped, therefore, that the greatest pains would be taken to secure a practicable frontier ("une frontière exécutable"), which would not lead to the dangers and complications which had ensued in the case of Montenegro.

With regard to Montenegro, he felt confident that the Albanians would soon become quieter. They could not live. It was impossible for them to hold out long. Military action on the part of the Powers would be excessively dangerous and complicated, and who was to undertake it?

But the conversation turned mainly on the general interests of Turkey; on the practicability of reforms; on the corruption at Constantinople, and the chances of the continuance of the Ottoman Empire in Europe.

I stated to His Imperial Majesty in the clearest language the view of Her Majesty's Government, that sincere and effectual reforms were indispensable, that they were demanded in the interest of Turkey itself, and that if they were not carried out Turkey must clearly understand that the English Government would certainly not consider that England had a special interest in the maintenance of the Turkish Empire; that if Turkey harboured this *arrière-pensée* she was entirely mistaken. I added that I was specially charged to bring this view home to the Porte.

His Imperial Majesty quite concurred in the view that the end must come unless reforms were made, assured me that his Government would earnestly support the demand for reforms; but added the observation that great care must be taken that such strong language should not be used towards the Porte as would drive Turkey into the arms of Russia. His Majesty hinted that there were circumstances present to his mind which justified this warning.

His Majesty dwelt with some emphasis on the necessity of maintaining the authority of the Porte for some time to come at all events, as the question was not ripe for solution; indeed, it was impossible to suggest a solution, and that if Turkish dominion fall it would probably lead to a European war.

I suggested, in reply, that these apprehensions rendered it the more indispensable for United Europe to press for and obtain reforms, for otherwise the situation was clearly such that the contingency of the break up of the Empire which he so much deprecated would certainly occur.

I added that in my view it was essential that this united demand for reforms, and indeed the concerted action of Europe generally, should extend to all the points involved in the Berlin Treaty in Asia as well as in Europe, and that in the general interest it would be unwise for some Powers to stand aloof on certain questions where they had a less direct interest, leaving only the remaining Powers who might have conflicting, or at least competing, interests to deal with them.

His Imperial Majesty cordially assented to this view. He recognized to the full of how much advantage in such cases the presence of the less interested Powers might be, and promised that his Government would be no less anxious to press for reforms in Asia than in Europe.

As to the nature of the reforms to be asked, the remarks of the Emperor confirmed the impression made on me by my conversation with Baron Haymerle, that the Austrian Government would on the whole be inclined to ask considerably less than Her Majesty's Government, partly from an apprehension that the Turks would refuse the larger demands, partly because they have less belief in the possibility of their being carried out. On the other hand, His Imperial Majesty seemed quite impressed with the gravity of the situation at Constantinople owing to the corruption and incapacity of the officials there, and apparently took no very high view of the character of the Sultan himself.

His Majesty made some remarks on the conduct of the several Powers in the later phases of the Eastern question. He spoke in complimentary terms of the course which France had pursued, and said that of late the conduct of Italy had been "most correct." He spoke of the support which Germany would certainly give to Austria, but added rather significantly, "but not in any dangerous sense."

An uneasiness as to Russia was evident in many of the phrases which His Imperial Majesty used.

With regard to the position of Austria herself, he deprecated very strongly the idea that she sought any further selfish objects. "We do not wish to change our position," he said, while he added, in a rather emphatic though quiet manner, "Mais nous la maintiendrons."

The general impression conveyed to me by the Emperor's conversation was, that His Majesty is above all things anxious not to bring matters to a crisis in any direction, neither in individual questions, such as Albania or Greece, nor in the demand for reforms, nor, above all, in the hastening of any events which might bring about the end of Turkish rule; that his anxiety is not due to the fear of any particular eventuality, but to the utter uncertainty as to what may follow, and what tasks may be imposed on Austria in consequence. His Majesty seemed to speak with the utmost candour, and often with a good deal of feeling. He seemed most desirous to act in harmony with England, and his general attitude seemed rather one of great political timidity and embarrassment than one of far-seeing designs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) GEORGE J. GOSCHEN.

No. 434.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 234.)
My Lord, *Rome, May 23, 1880.*

IMMEDIATELY on the receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 78 of yesterday's date, I wrote to Count Maffei stating that the French Government had strongly urged that, in view of the long delay of the Porte to reply definitively to the proposal for a local Commission to settle the Greek Frontier question, the proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin should be substituted for it instead of being proposed to the Porte as an alternative, and that the terms of the identical note to be presented to the Government of the Sultan should be altered accordingly. I added that Her Majesty's Government were willing to agree to this, if all the other Powers gave their assent to it, but only in that case.

I had therefore, I said, been instructed to ascertain and report, as soon as possible, the opinion of the Italian Government upon this proposal, and I requested Count Maffei to be good enough, at his early convenience, to enable me to do so.

In the afternoon of yesterday I received a note from Count Maffei, saying:—

"I have brought to M. Cairoli's knowledge the contents of your note, and I am now desired by him to inform you that we have no objection whatever to the meeting of the proposed Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin for the settlement of the Greek Frontier question, instead of calling together an International Boundary Commission as formerly suggested.

"Her Majesty's Government may therefore register Italy's assent to this new proposal."

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. PAGET.

No. 435.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 415.)
My Lord, *Paris, May 26, 1880.*

M. DE FREYCINET told me this afternoon that he presumed that M. Tissot had already arrived at Constantinople, or was on the point of doing so. M. Tissot would, he said, have for the present the designation of Minister Plenipotentiary on a special mission, but would in a short time be regularly appointed Ambassador of the French Republic at the Sublime Porte.

M. de Freycinet proceeded to observe that he considered it to be settled that the text of the identic note to the Porte should be drawn up by the Representatives of the six Powers at Constantinople, and, moreover, that the Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin on the Greek Frontier question should be announced in it as a substantive measure, and not merely put forward as an alternative.

M. de Freycinet added that he had instructed M. Tissot to transmit to him by telegraph the draft of the identic note as soon as it had been prepared by the Representatives, and to abstain from signing it until it had been approved by the French Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 436.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 416.)
Paris, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

THIS afternoon, in obedience to the instruction conveyed to me by your Lordship's telegram No. 105 of yesterday, I spoke to M. de Freycinet of the law stated to have been passed in Bulgaria, in virtue of which inhabitants of the territories which have been annexed to Roumania and Servia would be entitled to become Bulgarian citizens by the mere fact of emigrating to the Principality.

I stated to M. de Freycinet the substance of the instructions which your Lordship has given to Her Majesty's Agent in Bulgaria, and I asked him whether the French Government had received any representations respecting this matter, and what was the view they took of it.

M. de Freycinet answered that he himself had not heard of the affair before, but that he would make inquiry about it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 437.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 417.)
Paris, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

THIS afternoon, in obedience to the instruction contained in your Lordship's despatch No. 468 of the 7th instant, I took an opportunity of mentioning to M. de Freycinet the question which had arisen at Galatz in consequence of the French Consul having substituted a small staff attached to his house for the mast on which, like the other Consuls at that place, he had hitherto hoisted the flag of his country.

M. de Freycinet said that he heard of the matter for the first time.

I have, &c.
(Signed) LYONS.

No. 438.

Baron Haymerle to Count Károlyi.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 27.)

Vienna, May 26, 1880.

IF all the Powers, Russia included, of whose consent we are not yet informed, have accepted the new French proposition with regard to the Ambassadors' Conference in Berlin, your Excellency will notify to Lord Granville that we adhere to it too.

No. 439.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by Count Károlyi, May 27, 1880.

IN consequence of the despatch which, according to our agreement, I telegraphed to Vienna the day before yesterday, M. Lippich in Scutari has been instructed to report his competent personal opinion how far a compensation westward from the Lake of Scutari were possible, and could, in face of the attitude of the Albanians, more easily be carried out than the Tusi frontier; and also till to what point the Montenegrin frontier could be extended in the said direction.

In the same time Consul-General Lippich has been authorized to discuss this question with his English colleague, if mooted by him, in form of an exchange of personal views, but with nobody else.

Belgrave Square, May 27, 1880.

No. 440.

The Secretary to the Admiralty to Lord Tenterden.—(Received May 27.)

Sir,
Admiralty, May 26, 1880.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to send herewith, for the information of Earl Granville, a copy of a letter addressed to the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean station by Her Britannic Majesty's Consul at Corfu, requesting that in view of the disturbed state of affairs in Albania and the neighbourhood, a ship of war may be sent there.

2. Their Lordships have given orders for a vessel to be stationed either at Corfu or in Albanian waters, with directions to obtain and forward to their Lordships all information as to proceedings in Albania, and as to the movements of foreign ships of war.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ROBERT HALL.

Inclosure in No. 440.

Vice-Admiral Sir F. Seymour to the Secretary to the Admiralty.

"*Alexandra*," *at Malta, May* 15, 1880.

FORWARDED for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, observing that the "Coquette" was actually in the waters of Corfu when this letter was written.

(Signed) F. BEAUCHAMP SEYMOUR.

Consul Reade to Vice-Admiral Sir F. Seymour.

Sir,
Corfu, May 11, 1880.

I have the honour to report to you the following movements of ships of war.

1. On the 5th instant, the Italian iron-clad "Varese," Captain Monfort, 11 guns, crew 230, arrived here from Patras, and left for Brindisi on the 10th.

2. "Terrible," Captain Libetta, 8 guns, crew 306, arrived here from Patras and Zante, and left for Brindisi on the 9th.

3. On the 8th instant the Italian iron-clad frigate "Palestro," Captain Monfredi, 15 guns, crew 500, bearing the Flag of Rear-Admiral Fingati, arrived here from the Piræus, and left on the 9th for Brindisi.

4. On the 8th, the Italian corvette "Vedetta," Captain San Felice, 4 guns, crew 94, arrived here from the "Piræus," and left on the 9th for Brindisi.

From the present state of both North and South Albania, in consequence of the Turco-Montenegrin and Turco-Greek questions, the movements in this quarter is exciting much interest.

From my last advices from Mr. Green, Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires of Montenegro, the present state of Scutari is very precarious; and from the present attitude of the Albanians, in regard to the proposed cession of territory to Montenegro, grave disturbances may at any moment take place.

The Albanians of Scutari appear to be almost defying the Ottoman authorities, and are said to have assembled in considerable numbers in the district to be ceded. The condition also of Epirus, opposite Corfu and Paxo is also very disturbed, chiefly from the numbers of marauders of one sort or another that are roaming about the southern part of the province, where they are said to have collected, in view of the expected Turco-Greek Frontier Commission.

I have just been reliably informed that the new Governor-General, Mustafa Assym Pasha, who passed through this, on his way to his new post about ten days ago, is already taking energetic measures for the suppression of these disorders; a good many arrests have, I hear, already been made by his Excellency's orders.

Considering, therefore, the exceptional state of things in this quarter, I venture to hope, and not knowing what may at any moment occur, that you may deem it advisable to replace Her Majesty's ship "Falcon," which left this morning for Malta, to join your flag, by another vessel under your command.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

No. 441.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 26, 1880, 7 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, the effect of the proposed law would be to give an option to Bulgarians of Dobrudscha to become Bulgarian subjects by mere fact of emigrating into Principality, the other Bulgarian subjects of Roumania requiring [? ten] years before they can be naturalized. Two categories of Roumanian subjects would be thus created. Roumania objects to this, as well as to the Dobrudscha being considered as having ever formed part of the Principality. Roumanian Agent believes that Bulgarian Government will alter words of Bill so as to concede latter point, but are not inclined to make concessions with regard to former.

M. Zancoff has informed me that object of Bulgarian Government was to facilitate immigration of Bulgarians from districts in question, which were beyond the range of Bulgarian aspirations, but did not wish to give equal facilities to Bulgarians in Eastern Roumelia and Macedonia, where it was important to strengthen Bulgarian element.

No. 442.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 27.)

(No. 77.)
(Telegraphic.) *St. Petersburgh, May 26, 1880, 8·40 P.M.*

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 112, Russian Government can express no opinion on the Projet de Loi until they have seen it, Russian Consul-General at Sophia having merely reported that he is endeavouring to smooth down matters between the Roumanian and the Bulgarian authorities. M. de Giers is privately of opinion that there must be some "bêtise" in application of new law to cause irritation between the two countries. Russian Government will probably use its influence to prevent Bulgarian Government from carrying the law into execution in an improper manner. Roumanian Constitution gives special facilities for any one of Roumanian origin acquiring Roumanian citizenship.

No. 443.

*Earl Granville to Lord Odo Russell.**

(No. 74.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

THE following is the instruction for the identic note which it is proposed to send to Mr. Goschen as regards the Greek frontier:—

"With regard to the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier, Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the other Powers that the delay of the Porte in replying to the proposal of the Marquis of Salisbury must be considered as a refusal, and that therefore, as it is desirable in the interests of both Turkey and Greece to bring the matter speedily to an issue, the Ambassadors should announce to the Porte that the Powers propose that a Conference of the Representatives of the mediating Powers, assisted by officers possessing technical knowledge, should be held at Berlin, to be assembled for actual business before the end of June, to consider and determine by a majority on the proper line of frontier to be adopted, and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments.

"When a determination has been arrived at by the Conference, a Commission might proceed to the locality to settle the details."

Ask Government to which you are accredited if they concur.

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* Also to Sir H. Elliot, Sir A. Paget, and the Earl of Dufferin.

No. 444.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880, 4·25 P.M.*

HER Majesty's Government are proposing an identic note, calling on the Porte to fulfil its obligations under the Articles of the Treaty of Berlin as to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

The precise proposal to be made to the Porte as to Greece has not yet been finally agreed upon by the Powers.

Her Majesty's Government have suggested a Conference of the Representatives of the mediating Powers at Berlin, to which Greece and Turkey should be invited to send Delegates to represent their respective views. You will be informed as soon as the matter is sufficiently settled for a communication to be formally made to the Greek Government.

No. 445.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880, 8 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN Consul-General has been instructed to report how far compensation to Montenegro westward of Lake Scutari is possible, and to what point frontier could be extended. He is authorized to discuss the question with you, but with no one else. You may inform him of your views, as reported in your despatch No. 29, and send home further report after you have exchanged ideas.

No. 446.

Earl Granville to Major-General Sir E. Hamley.

(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880, 8·15 P.M.*

WITH reference to your telegram of May 25, Kemball, whom we have consulted, maintains that silver-ink line on his working map represents frontier line which mediating Commissioners were prepared to recommend as an equitable arbitration on the claims of Turkey and Persia. Clarke says that Zelenoi's working map, also in British Embassy, gives the same compensatory line, and that two other maps in Embassy archives show frontiers claimed by Turkey and Persia. Have you compared these maps? Some further explanation would be desirable before we communicate with Russian Government.

No. 447.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 358.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government approve of your Excellency's proceedings in making serious representations to the Porte relative to the apparent connivance of the Turkish authorities in the agitation which is being stimulated amongst the Albanians by Vessel Bey, as reported by Vice-Consul Blakeney in his despatch No. 21 to your Excellency, copy of which is inclosed in your despatch No. 492 of the 8th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 448.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 12.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

I HAVE received a despatch from Sir H. Layard, No. 503 of the 11th instant, in which his Excellency incloses copy of a letter from Mr. Suter to Her Majesty's Consul-

General at Salonica, explaining the grounds on which he is determined to resign his appointment under the Turkish Government of Inspector of Finance in the Vilayet of Salonica.

I have to request your Excellency to take an opportunity of bringing to the notice of the Porte the treatment which Mr. Suter has experienced.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 449.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 14.)
Sir *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

I TRANSMIT to your Excellency, herewith, copy of the reply which has been returned by the Porte to the second collective note which was presented by the Representatives of the Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, relative to the Montenegrin question.*

I have to request your Excellency to point out to the Porte that this telegram is not an answer to the question put by the Representatives of the Powers, and that there seems now little use for an inquiry into the circumstances of the failure of the Turkish authorities to deliver over the positions to the Montenegrins as had been agreed.

What is now of importance, in the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, is that a definite answer should be given by the Turkish Government as to their intentions in the present position of affairs in the Montenegrin frontier.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 450.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 17.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

THE Powers who were parties to the Treaty of Berlin have signified their concurrence in the proposal of Her Majesty's Government that an identic and simultaneous note should be addressed by the Ambassadors of the Powers at Constantinople to the Porte, requiring the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and the provinces inhabited by the Armenians.

I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will concert with your colleagues for the preparation and presentation to the Porte of a note, following, as far as possible, the terms of my Circular despatch of the 4th May last, of which a copy is inclosed, respecting the Montenegrin frontier and the LXIst Article of the Treaty.

With regard to the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier, Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the other Powers that the delay of the Porte in replying to the proposal of the Marquis of Salisbury must be considered as a refusal, and that therefore as it is desirable, in the interests of both Turkey and Greece, to bring the matter speedily to an issue, the Ambassador should announce to the Porte that the Powers propose that a Conference of the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, assisted by officers possessing technical knowledge, should be held at Berlin, to be assembled for actual business before the end of June, to consider and determine by a majority on the proper line of frontier to be adopted, and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments.

When a determination has been arrived at by the Conference, a Commission might proceed to the locality to settle the details.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 318.

Inclosure in No. 450.

Draft of a Despatch from Earl Granville to Her Majesty's Representatives at Paris, Berlin, Vienna, Rome, and St. Petersburgh.

My Lord,
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* , 1880.

HER Majesty's Government consider that it is an object of European interest that the delay which has occurred in the execution of certain of the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin should be put an end to, and that this can best be effected by the united efforts of the Powers.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to invite the co-operation of the Government and of the other Powers to obtain this result, and I have accordingly to request that your Excellency will propose to that the Ambassador at Constantinople should be instructed, in concert with the Representatives of the other Powers, to address an identic and simultaneous note to the Porte, requiring the Turkish Government to fulfil forthwith its obligations under the Treaty in regard to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

The Porte has for some time had before it a proposal, made by the Marquis of Salisbury, and which had received the assent of the Powers, that an International Commission should proceed to the frontier provinces to determine the rectification of the Greek boundary. The Porte has pointed out the difficulties which might be encountered by such a Commission, but has not given any definite reply. It appears to Her Majesty's Government that it should now be called upon to do so without delay.

The state of things on the Montenegrin frontier requires even more pressing attention. The Turkish authorities, by mismanagement, if not want of good faith, have failed to carry out the agreement entered into with Montenegro, and adhered to by the Representatives of the Powers in the Protocol of the of April, and have allowed the frontier positions to be occupied by the Albanians, and a collision might at any time occur between the latter and the Montenegrin troops. The Porte should be required to state specifically its intentions as to the Montenegrin frontier, and to bring the arrangement into which it has entered with regard to Kuči-Krajna into immediate practical execution.

By the LXIst Article of the Treaty of Berlin the Sublime Porte undertook to carry out, without further delay, the improvements and reforms demanded by local requirements in the provinces inhabited by the Armenians, and to guarantee their security against the Circassians and Kurds, and to periodically make known the steps taken to this effect to the Powers who are to superintend their application.

So far as Her Majesty's Government are aware, nothing has been done by the Porte to make known any steps which it may have taken under this Article, nor have any measures been adopted for the superintendence to be exercised by the Powers. The Reports which Her Majesty's Government have received show that the state of Armenia is deplorable, and they cannot think that this Article should be permitted any longer to remain a dead letter. They believe that it is only by the exercise of united pressure that the Porte can be induced to fulfil its duty in this respect, and they consider that the due execution of the Article should be at once demanded, and the Porte be called upon to state explicitly what the steps are which it has taken in compliance with the provision of the Treaty.

You will read this despatch to , and leave a copy with him, requesting to be informed, at his early convenience, whether he is willing to give instructions in a similar sense to the Ambassador at Constantinople.

I am, &c.

No. 451.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 36.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

I COMMUNICATED, in a confidential form, to the Austro-Hungarian Government the views you hold with regard to compensation being found for Montenegro westward of Lake Scutari in lieu of the territory in the Tusi district, to the cession of which the Albanians are opposed.

M. Lippich, the Austrian Consul-General, has been authorized to discuss the question with you, but with you only, and to report the conclusion at which he may arrive with

regard to it. You may therefore inform him of your views as they are reported in your despatch No. 29 of the 23rd February, and you should report to me the result of your exchange of ideas.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 452.

Earl Granville to Mr. Corbett.

(No. 66.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 27, 1880.*

HER Majesty's Government have proposed to the other Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin that an identic note should be addressed to the Porte, calling upon it to fulfil its obligations under the Articles of the Treaty which have reference to Greece, Montenegro, and Armenia.

It has not yet been finally decided by the Powers what shall be the precise proposal to be made to the Porte with regard to the Greek frontier.

Her Majesty's Government have suggested that a Conference of the Representatives of the Mediating Powers should be held at Berlin, and that Greece and Turkey should be invited to send Delegates to represent their respective views.

As soon as the negotiations are sufficiently advanced for a communication to be formally made to the Greek Government, you will be furnished with the instructions of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 453

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May 27, 1880, 6 P.M.*

THE Porte has taken no step whatever towards calling the Commission together. I have arranged an informal meeting of the Commissioners on Saturday to consider what course to pursue, and on Sunday I shall see Said Pasha.

I have just succeeded in getting a copy of the translation of the Règlement, and also the *procès-verbal* in Turkish of the proceedings of the Special Commission at Salonica.

Porte is unaware of my having got these documents. Turkish Commissioner is not yet appointed.

No. 454.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28, 10·30 P.M.)

(No. 45. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) *Berlin, May 28, 1880, 5 P.M.*

YOUR Lordship's No. 74.

Prince Hohenlohe says that Prince Bismarck concurs in your Lordship's instruction to be sent to Mr. Goschen regarding the Greek frontier, but recommends leaving out the passage respecting the invitation to the Governments of Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to the Conference.

Prince Bismarck would prefer to leave it to the initiative of those Governments to ask to lay their arguments before the Conference through their Representatives at Berlin.

No. 455.

Sir A. H. Layard to Earl Granville.—(Received May 28, 9 P.M.)

(No. 262.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 28, 1880, 5·30 P.M.*

MR. GOSCHEN arrived this afternoon at 2 o'clock in Her Majesty's ship "Helicon."

No. 456.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 564.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 28, 1880.*

WITH regard to the question of the rectification of the Greek frontier, Her Majesty's Government have agreed with the other Powers that the delay of the Porte in replying to the proposal of the Marquis of Salisbury must be considered as a refusal, and that, therefore, as it is desirable in the interests of both Turkey and Greece to bring the matter speedily to an issue, the Ambassadors should announce to the Porte that the Powers propose that a Conference of the Representatives of the Mediating Powers, assisted by officers possessing technical knowledge, should be held at Berlin, to be assembled for actual business before the end of June, to consider and determine by a majority on the proper line of frontier to be adopted, and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments.

When a determination has been arrived at by the Conference, a Commission might proceed to the locality to settle the details.

I have to request that your Excellency will inquire of the French Government whether they concur with the proposed instruction.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 457.

Earl Granville to Consul Sandwith.

(No. 2.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 28, 1880.*

I HAVE received your despatch No. 24, Political, of the 19th March last, inclosing copies of the Codes of Civil and Criminal Procedure drafted by Mr. John Scalzounis, Provisional Procureur-Général in Canea, and modified and finally voted by the General Assembly of the Cretans.

I have read the Report on those Codes, of which you also inclose a copy and translation, which was addressed by Mr. Scalzounis to Photindes Pasha, the Vali of Crete, together with your résumé of this Report.

If a translation in French of these Codes should appear, I have to request that you will procure a copy thereof and forward it to this Office.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 458.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 110. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 17, 1880.*

WITH reference to my despatch No. 85 of the 30th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the Montenegrin Government has made another fruitless attempt to assert its right to the free navigation of the River Boyana. Yesterday a Montenegrin official, with three large lake boats, arrived here for the purpose of continuing the transport of the Government salt to the Principality. He called on me and informed me of his arrival, and I suggested that he should go and do the same to Izzet Pasha, and request his assistance to prevent any interference on the part of the Albanians.

Later in the day the Montenegrin returned and told me that the Pasha had denied that any difficulties existed or would occur, and had authorized him to proceed to work as before. However, messages of so menacing a nature were conveyed to the Montenegrin this morning that he felt it prudent, in the course of the day, to return with his empty boats to the Principality.

Through a suggestion of mine the transport of three small cargoes of Greek tobacco from Obotic to Rieka has been permitted, as the Montenegrin proprietors were able to hire for the service a small Austrian steamer which is navigating on the lake. An attempt was made to oppose even this arrangement by the injunction of the Albanian Committee on pilots to refuse employment on the steamer; but, after a representation to the Pasha, the expedient of engaging a pilot who is an Austrian subject was tolerated.

The Albanian Committee in thus interfering with one of the stipulations of the XXIXth Article of the Treaty of Berlin, I believe, is only anxious to draw the attention of the Powers, with as little delay as possible, to the state of affairs in this country.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 459.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 111. Political.)
Scutari, May 17, 1880.
My Lord,

I HOPE I shall not meet with your Lordship's disapproval for having availed myself of the evident expectation which has arisen among the Albanians that Her Majesty's Government will not overlook the claims they have put forward, to once more urge all those with whom I come in contact, and whom I know to exercise influence in the native Assemblies, to refrain from commencing hostilities with Montenegro, and which can only take the form of purposeless skirmishes accompanied by all the barbarities and cruelties which have unfortunately not yet been abandoned by the Albanians as by the Montenegrins.

I have pointed out that bloodshed will not add any strength to the protest which the North Albanians have, so to say, lodged before Europe through their resistance to the Arrangement of the 12th ultimo, whilst moderation and self-restraint will assuredly gain them consideration; and that, if all but abstract legal rights have to succumb, the Powers will have to take count of the order and regularity which have marked the expression of national desires by North Albania, and prevent the Porte from holding the authors of it too severely responsible for it.

Without wishing to attach any importance to my exertions, I do not think it could be denied, if the spilling of blood should be happily avoided, that the influence exercised over the native populations of the Ottoman Empire by the known sentiments of Her Majesty's Government will have been here, in Albania, the chief cause for the maintenance of a calm and law-abiding attitude.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

No. 460.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 113. Political.)
Scutari, May 17, 1880.
My Lord,

I HAVE already had the honour of communicating to-day to your Lordship the telegram to Mr. Gladstone from the Albanian Committee, which was brought to me by two members of that Committee, with the letter of which the inclosed is a translation. I beg also to furnish, herewith, a transcript of the message to Mr. Gladstone.

I was careful to explain to Ibrahim Effendi Dragussa and to M. Andrea Sirocca, the bearers of the telegram, that I should have certainly been obliged to decline to be the channel of transmitting it if I was not aware that the message would be rejected by the Telegraph Office, and as I thought I ought not to refuse to furnish Her Majesty's Government with a tangible proof that a political organization, formed of all that is most

respectable among the native inhabitants of Scutari, was permitted to freely exist and act by the local Turkish authorities.

I added, however, that my consent to forward the telegram was not to be interpreted as a sign that I was in any way disposed to countenance the proceedings of the Albanian Committee, for, as a British Consular officer in this province, I was bound to bear in mind my duties towards the Ottoman authority, and I could not disguise from my visitors that their Committee, by the course it is following, is actively opposing the commands of the Sultan.

Ibrahim Effendi Dragussa and M. Andrea Sirocca fully accepted the responsibility of the independent action of the Albanian Committee, but, at the same time, they felt that the European Powers ought not to disregard the legitimate rights of their country, and they were sure the British Government, at all events, would act with justice and without precipitation.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 460.

Two Members of the Albanian Committee to Mr. Kirby Green.

(Translation.)
Sir, *Scutari, May 17, 1880.*

WE have the honour to deliver to you, herewith inclosed, a telegram addressed to his Excellency Lord Gladstone, with the prayer to cause it to reach, through your means, with safety, its destination.

Anticipating to you our lively thanks, we have the honour to sign ourselves, &c.
Seal of BRAHIM EFFENDI DRAGUSSA.
(Signed) ANDREA SIRROCCA.

Inclosure 2 in No. 460.

Albanian Committee to Mr. Gladstone.

LE peuple Albanais, représenté en ce moment par les Soussignés, a l'honneur de faire parvenir à votre Excellence ses plus vives félicitations à l'occasion de son choix comme Premier Ministre de Sa Majesté Britannique.

Ce peuple en même temps invoque la haute protection de la glorieuse nation Anglaise dans la cause de son intégrité territoriale, de ses droits pour lesquels l'Albanie a voué ses efforts, sa vie.

Pour le Comité Albanais,
(Signé) ANDREA SIROCCA.
GIOVANNI MUSANI.
SIMONE SIMONI.
(Sealed) DANT EFFENDI.
SELIM EFFENDI CIOBBA.
SULEIMAN BEGH.
HACCI AGH LOHA.

No. 461.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 115. Political.)
My Lord, *Scutari, May 19, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith a copy and a translation of the memorandum of the Albanian Committee to the Foreign Consuls here, mentioned in my telegram of last night.

I used very much the same language to the two gentlemen, who were again Ibrahim Effendi Dragussa and M. Andrea Sirocca, when they brought me the memorandum, as I had done the day before when receiving from them the telegram addressed to Mr. Glad-

stone, but I was sorry to observe that the gentlemen appeared to desire me to understand that the present step of the Albanian Committee, if it remained unnoticed by the Great Powers, would be shortly followed by an advance of the Albanian force on the Podgoritza plain towards the villages occupied by the Montenegrins.

In my despatch No. 92 of the 5th instant I explained to your Lordship the value of the expressions of loyalty to the Ottoman Government contained in the paper I therein transmitted from the Roman Catholic mountain Chiefs, and I now venture to draw your Lordship's attention to the studious avoidance of all such expressions in the present memorandum.

The first was drawn up by some Turkish official, the present is the outcome of much consultation and arrangement between the Roman Catholics and Mussulmans of Scutari, and I have been confidentially informed that the latter, although they hope the steps they are taking will not break all connection with the Sultan's authority, still are aware that they may have such a result, and are prepared, if absolutely necessary, to stand by their country rather than by the Ottoman Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) W. KIRBY GREEN.

Inclosure in No. 461.

North Albanian Committee to Consuls at Scutari.

(Translation.)

To the Illustrious Messieurs, MM. the Consuls of England, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, Russia, and Italy, at Scutari.

THE Treaty of Berlin, in which the Representatives of the Great Powers were met in Congress to give, as they gave, a legitimate solution to the various questions which formed the Eastern question, was held by all the populations of Europe, and by us Albanians also, as a sacred thing, and one that could not be set aside.

But, instead, and against every expectation, by the recent Convention passed between the Ottoman Government and the Government of Montenegro for the cession of Hotti and Gruda in exchange for Gusinjé, this Treaty has been violated and struck in its most delicate and essential part, which is that of respect for the principle of nationality, forming the basis of European public right.

The Albanians, however, firmly hold that this Convention for a territorial cession which infringes our sacred rights, which incites to imminent bloody conflict, and which is unworthy of even less civilized times, was involuntarily made by the Ottoman Government, and not called in question by the Mediating Powers because, probably, they were badly informed of the disposition of mind of this people, whose aspirations tend to preserve the integrity of their own country and that national character which it has never belied for the last four centuries.

Albania, our dear but unfortunate country, which possesses also a glorious page in the history of nations, does not wish to be sold nor bartered; nor will it ever suffer a foreign domination, and the least of all that of the Slav, from which it differs as much by race, language, and type, as by inclination, customs, and traditions. We do not wish to be anything else but Albanians; we only want the integrity of our country, of our native country, which, for us, is as dear to us as to all civilized people of the world, to whom we pray, appealing to their justice, to deliver us from the hard fate which is threatening us, and not to permit that so great an infamy should be perpetrated to our injury.

It was and is the sacred object, the sentiment, the fear to lose one's nationality, which, when the unlucky news of the cession of the territory of Hotti and Gruda came, decided all, with an unanimity without example, to suffer death, to which all are prepared, rather than to give up a span of land to the Montenegrin Government, and this resolution was followed by the fact that 10,000 fighting men assembled as one man, and at the end of one week found themselves drawn up along the frontier in order to prevent the enemy's invasion, attempted by force of arms and a preponderating number of soldiers, who, threateningly, still remain at our gates.

We—it is well to repeat what was said in the first declaration made by the Chiefs of Hotti and Gruda—intend solely to abide strictly by the Treaty of Berlin, and to remain simply on the defensive, for, in the same manner as we do not wish to be invaded, we neither desire to be invaders. But as, notwithstanding all our good intentions, this precarious and undecided state of things cannot last much longer, be it because Albania, owing to the existing critical economical condition, is not exactly in a position to maintain on foot an army for any length of time, or, above all, because, by the permanently menacing attitude which Montenegro affects, the nation can no longer refrain from putting in safety its national integrity; so, therefore, the responsibility of every eventuality or bloody conflict must fall on the Montenegrin Government, which is the direct and immediate cause, through its pretension to the cession of a territory which does not belong to it, and to which it is not entitled by right of nationality.

In making known the foregoing we warmly beg Messieurs the Consuls residing here to take note of our resolve, and to be good enough to communicate it speedily to the Powers which they so worthily represent, and which, we entertain the firm hope, will accord it their gracious consideration, and that, being enlightened as to the true state of the question, they will not only wish to prevent the spilling of Albanian blood, which will cry for vengeance to Heaven and to the whole world, but will also provide that Albania shall not see the rejection and passing over of rights which, when belonging to all other peoples, are respected in due manner and form.

And with these sentiments the undersigned members of the Albanian Committee have, &c.

(Seals and signatures follow.)

Scutari, May $\frac{5}{17}$, 1880.

No. 462.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 231.)
My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, May 23, 1880.*

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship that the "Golos" of the 21st instant states that, according to the "Narodnaia Glas" (a Bulgarian newspaper), His Majesty the Emperor of Russia has conferred on Aleko Pasha the Order of St. Anne of the First Class, and on his Excellency's Secretary the same Order of the Second Class, as a new proof of his fatherly solicitude and favour in regard to Eastern Roumelia.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 463.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Sophia, May 29, 1880.*

MEASURES will be taken to prevent Nationality Law being proceeded with this Session. In the meantime Bulgarian Government will try to arrange matters amicably with Roumania.

No. 464.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) , *May 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to my telegram No. 3, I have read the translation of the Règlement, and will send an abstract by messenger. It is little more than a reproduction of the old "Loi des Vilayets," and is altogether unsatisfactory in the vital particulars, especially finance. I hear on authority I can trust that at a Council of Ministers on Tuesday last a policy of resistance was resolved upon.

No. 465.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(Received May 29.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May 29, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram of yesterday, Austrian Consul entirely shares my belief that a peaceable cession to the west of the lake is completely within the power of

the Porte, but that until extent of this cession is agreed upon between the Powers, it would not be prudent to allow the Porte to know anything about it, as it would immediately commence in this direction also the intrigues which it has already twice found so efficacious. We are of opinion that the line from Lake Scutari in Captain Sale's map voted by Commission could be retained as far as about the eleventh point near Maljan, and then strike the Russian line and continue to its extreme south-easterly point, from where it could join the Boyana at the junction of the small river which issues from Lake Sas and follow course of main river to the sea. Montenegro would probably gladly accept this compensation. If the Porte is loyal in the matter, with four additional battalions to the force already here distributed on left bank of the Boyana, all danger of interference by the Albanians could be guarded against. The line to the east of the lake ought to be the one voted by the Commission with the adoption of the red line as far as the twenty-fourth point, whence the [? Russian] line should be used to rejoin the Commission line at Sukaigruda. In this manner no other position but Dinosi, which is absolutely necessary to Montenegro for the safety of Podgoritza, would have to be evacuated by the Albanians. But to be enabled to induce the Roman Catholic mountaineers to agree to this evacuation we ought to be authorized to give them formal assurances that the wishes of the North Albanians will not be disregarded, and that immediate steps will be taken for endowing the Province of Scutari with a Government calculated to satisfy them, and at the same time maintain a certain connection with the Porte. We are of opinion that such an arrangement is practicable.

No. 466.

Mr. Kirby Green to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 29, 2 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Scutari, May* 29, 1880, 10·30 A.M.

PRINCE NIKITA has summoned me to Montenegro, where I shall proceed on Monday. Has the Austrian Government informed His Highness of the suggestions that are being discussed?

No. 467.

Lord Lyons to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 29, 3 P.M.)

(No. 33.) *Paris, May* 29, 1880, 1·20 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

WITH reference to your despatch No. 564, French Minister for Foreign Affairs concurs in proposed instruction to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople with one exception.

He adopts an observation that has come to him from Berlin, to the effect that Turkey and Greece should not be invited to send Delegates to the Conference, but should only be allowed to do so if they request it.

He understands that the observation has been telegraphed to your Lordship by Lord O. Russell.

No. 468.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 29, 9·5 P.M.)

(No. 64.) *Vienna, May* 29, 1880, 7·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 83.

Baron Haymerle entirely concurs in your proposed instructions to Mr. Goschen, with the exception of the sentence inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their Governments. He thinks that sufficient consideration would hardly be shown to Turkey if she were apparently summoned to defend herself before a Conference decided upon the sacrifice to be required of her, and he would therefore prefer the omission of the passage, and would leave it to the Porte to determine the course it should adopt in submitting its arguments to the discernment of the Powers, it being, however, understood that the Turkish Government should not thus be enabled to delay or impede the proceedings of the Conference.

No. 469.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Pera, May* 29, 1880, 8·20 P.M.

AN informal meeting of the Commissioners was held here to-day. We have signed a collective note informing the Porte that we are all arrived, and requesting it to appoint a Commissioner. I am to present this note to-morrow to Said Pasha. Mr. Goschen is fully informed of this.

No. 470.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 108.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1880.

THE following telegram has been received from Mr. Green:—

[See No. 466.]

Tell the Austrian Government that we should be very glad if they would join Her Majesty's Government in persuading the Porte and Montenegro to agree to the change of cession of territory mentioned, and in promising to use the influence of Great Britain and Austria to obtain a certain amount of self-government for the Albanians.

Her Majesty's Government would like to know if the Austrian Government is disposed to do this.

No. 471.

Sir A. Paget to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30, 6 P.M.)

(No. 50.)
(Telegraphic.) *Rome, May* 30, 1880, 3·45 P.M.

THE Italian Government concur in the wording of the proposed instruction to Mr. Goschen for the identic note as regards the Greek frontier, and will send a similar instruction to their Representative at Constantinople.

No. 472.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May* 30, 1880, 6·15 P.M.

WITH reference to Lord E. Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 3, you should join your colleagues in remonstrating with the Porte as to delay in taking steps for calling Commission together and appointing Commissioner.

No. 473.

Lord E. Fitzmaurice to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 30, 9 P.M.)

(Telegraphic.) *Constantinople, May* 30, 1880, 5 P.M.

THE former Turkish Commissioners are reappointed. I am to see Assim Pasha to-morrow, and arrange meeting.

No. 474.

*Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.**

(No. 115.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 30, 1880, 10·30 P.M.*

AUSTRIAN, French, and German Governments recommend omission in proposed identic note of sentence inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to lay before Conference arguments of their Governments.

What view does Government to which you are accredited take?

No. 475.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 18.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May 30, 1880.*

I LEARN by Lord E. Fitzmaurice's telegram No. 3 of the 27th instant, that the Porte has taken no steps for calling together the Eastern Roumelia Commission. Your Excellency should remonstrate, in conjunction with your colleagues, against this delay on the part of the Porte, and at the same time urge the immediate appointment of a Turkish Commissioner.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 476.

Earl Granville to the Earl of Dufferin.†

(No. 228.)
My Lord, *Foreign Office, May 30, 1880.*

THE Governments of Austria-Hungary, France, and Germany recommended that in the identic note which it is proposed to address to the Porte on the subject of the Greek frontier, the sentence inviting Turkey and Greece to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments should be omitted.

I should be glad if you would ascertain and report to me what is the view taken of this matter by the Government to which you are accredited.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 477.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 83.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 18, 1880.*

THE Bulgarian Government having applied to the French Government for the services of a qualified person to assist them in settling the finances of the Principality, I have the honour to report that M. Hoedé, one of the French Inspectors of Finance, has been designated by the French Government for the post in question.

M. Hoedé arrived at Sophia about ten days ago, and has entered upon his duties as Inspector of Finances. In addition to the difficulties which he encounters in consequence of the absolute want of organization, I understand that M. Hoedé complains that the Bulgarian Government, instead of being anxious to assist him, seem inclined to put further difficulties in his way.

M. Zancoff observed to me yesterday that it would be some time before M. Hoedé could become acquainted with the financial condition of the Principality, and he thought that the Bulgarian Government would have done better to wait until the finances had been reorganized before applying for the services of a foreigner.

I replied that it appeared to me that it was precisely in the organization of a system

* A similar telegram was sent to Sir A. Paget.
† A similar despatch was addressed to Sir A. Paget.

of finance that the experience of M. Hoedé would enable him to render valuable assistance to the Bulgarian Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 478.

Mr. Lascelles to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 84. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, May 18, 1880.*

IN a conversation which I had some days ago with the Prince of Bulgaria, His Highness informed me confidentially that he felt great anxiety at the state of affairs in Eastern Roumelia. He described the province to be a hotbed of Nihilistic intrigue, and complained of the manner in which he was treated by the Eastern Roumelian press. He added that some Bulgarians who had been dismissed from the service of the Principality had gone to Philippopoli and had at once obtained posts under the Government. His Highness went on to say that sooner or later it was inevitable that the union of the Principality and the province would take place, and that if the state of affairs at present existing in Eastern Roumelia were allowed to continue, the Nihilistic ideas which were being instilled into the minds of the inhabitants of the province would create a very serious danger for the Government of the United Bulgaria. The accounts he had received from Constantinople gave such a description of the state of affairs there that a revolution might be expected any day. If a revolution occurred, there could be little doubt that the Bulgarians of Eastern Roumelia would rise to obtain their independence from the Porte. The union with the Principality would then become inevitable, and his Highness would either have to go to Philippopoli or submit to Aleko Pasha coming to Sophia. As regarded himself personally he would be perfectly willing to retire into private life and to leave to Europe the choice of a Prince for United Bulgaria, but, having been placed in his present position by the Great Powers, he was bound to consider the interests of the country over which he had been called upon to rule, and if a rising, such as he anticipated, were to take place in Eastern Roumelia, he would be bound to put himself at the head of the movement which would naturally take place in the Principality. There was no probability of any rising taking place in the Principality, unless disturbances occurred outside, and his Highness, having taken part in the late campaign, had seen enough of the horrors of war to make him most anxious to prevent the outbreak of hostilities.

I thanked the Prince for having spoken to me so frankly, and observed that it appeared to me that if, as his Highness believed, the union between the Principality and Eastern Roumelia was inevitable, it would be far wiser for the Bulgarians not to precipitate matters, but to prove themselves worthy of their independence by organizing the Administration and showing themselves capable of government. The adoption of violent measures would be likely to alienate the sympathies of Europe.

His Highness replied that with the present Constitution his hands were so tied as to make it excessively difficult to introduce any real improvement in the Administration. It was very doubtful whether the Chamber would consent to the increase of expenditure which would be necessary, and, in the present condition of the neighbouring States, it was impossible to make any reductions in the military budget.

The Prince has used precisely similar language to my Austrian colleague.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 479.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 168.)
My Lord, *Athens, May 22, 1880.*

THE Turkish Chargé d'Affaires has been instructed by his Government to inform the Greek Government that twelve brigands lately crossed the frontier into Turkey, and that six of them had been shot by the Turkish guards. The remainder of the band was reported to have taken refuge in Greece.

These latter have since been arrested by Greek soldiers, and are now in prison waiting for their trial.

Although brigandage has disappeared in the interior of this country, it is still active on both sides the frontier line.

There is no likelihood of an end being put to it until the frontier question has been settled, a line fixed between the two countries more easily guarded than the present one, and a joint action of the authorities on both sides is allowed in following up the brigands.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN CORBETT.

No. 480.

The Earl of Dufferin to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 232.)
St. Petersburgh, May 23, 1880.

My Lord,

THE "St. Petersburger Zeitung" publishes the information that the competent military authorities at present at St. Petersburgh, are discussing the possibility of a war between Russia and China, and states that a few days ago a special messenger left for Tchikishlar with important despatches for General Skobeleff, in connection with the Chinese difficulty. The newspaper adds that it may not be improbable, in view of the difficult and protracted preparations, that the Akhal Téké expedition will be postponed till August, and that in the meantime General Skobeleff will receive a new appointment on the Russo-Chinese frontier.

I have taken an opportunity of inquiring of M. de Giers whether this latter statement was correct, and his Excellency replied that he did not think it was.

I have, &c.
(Signed) DUFFERIN.

No. 481.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 226.)
Berlin, May 24, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour to inform your Lordship this day by telegraph that the suggestion of the French Government to substitute, in the identic note to be presented to the Porte, a proposal for a Conference of Ambassadors at Berlin instead of the alternative proposal previously agreed to by the Powers, had been agreed to and accepted by the German Chancellor.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 482.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 230.)
Berlin, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

PRINCE HOHENLOHE, to whom I communicated your Lordship's message of the 25th instant, respecting the proposed Bulgarian Naturalization Law, told me that he had as yet received no information on the subject, but that he would make inquiry both at Sophia and at Vienna, and would let me know the result as soon as possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 483.

Lord Odo Russell to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 232. Confidential.)
Berlin, May 28, 1880.

My Lord,

I COMMUNICATED your Lordship's message of last night to Prince Hohenlohe, respecting the instruction Her Majesty's Government propose to send to Mr. Goschen for

the identic note as regards the Greek frontier, and his Highness told me to-day that Prince Bismarck concurred generally, but recommended the leaving out of the passage:—"and that the Governments of Turkey and Greece will be invited to send Delegates to lay before the Conference the arguments of their respective Governments."

Prince Bismarck, he said, thought it would be preferable and more in conformity with the spirit of the Berlin Treaty not to invite the Governments of Turkey and Greece to send Delegates, but rather to leave it to the initiative of those Governments to ask the Signatory Powers to enable them to lay their arguments before the proposed Conference through their Representatives at Berlin.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ODO RUSSELL.

No. 484.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 253. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 25, 1880.

My Lord,

THE Austrian Agent at Sophia has reported the language held to him by Prince Alexander much in the same terms as those contained in Mr. Lascelles' despatches to your Lordship, and Baron Haymerle is rather at a loss to explain the extreme despondency which seems to have come over his Highness.

He cannot admit that the fact of East Roumelia not forming a part of the Principality of Bulgaria need at all prevent the establishment of a regular Administration within its limits, nor the development of its resources, and he considers that the Prince would do better to devote all his energies to the attainment of these objects, instead of giving way to alarm at the state of things in the neighbouring province, however unsatisfactory it may continue to be, as long as the Moscow Committees exercise the power they now possess through the Gymnastic Societies, maintained at their cost and directed by their orders.

I have, &c
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 485.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 254. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

BARON HAYMERLE, to whom I communicated your Lordship's telegram of the 21st instant, was extremely gratified by the readiness shown by Her Majesty's Government to communicate unreservedly with him on the matters relating to the Balkan Peninsula, and has requested me to convey to you his warm acknowledgment for it.

He assures me that on all the questions in which the interests of England are especially engaged Her Majesty's Government may count on receiving from him the most cordial co-operation in carrying out their views.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 486.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 257.)
Vienna, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

AS directed by your yesterday's telegram, I have inquired of Baron Haymerle what the addition was that he wished to make in the note to the Porte in regard to the Montenegrin frontier beyond what had been proposed in your Lordship's Circular despatch of the 4th instant.

Baron Haymerle was at a loss to understand how he could be supposed to desire any addition to, or alteration in, the form of note that your Lordship had proposed, and which he had agreed to.

It was true that about ten days ago he was informed that the Russian Government were of opinion that the note ought to contain some reference to the unsatisfactory answer returned by the Porte to the representations addressed to it respecting the non-fulfilment of the arrangement about the Montenegrin frontier, and he had told M. d'Oubril that if an allusion to it in the note was considered desirable he would have no objection to its insertion. Nothing more than this had occurred, and he had never intimated any wish to modify or add to the note as proposed by your Lordship.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 487.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 259.)
Vienna, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

I HAD the honour last night to receive from your Lordship copies of Mr. Lascelles' telegram and of your answer respecting the law which has passed the Bulgarian Chamber for the admission to Bulgarian nationality of persons passing into the Principality from the districts lately added to Roumania and Servia.

I this morning told Baron Kallai that your Lordship had directed Mr. Lascelles, if his colleagues concurred in taking the step, to recommend the Prince not to be precipitate in giving effect to this law, and I asked what view of the matter was taken by the Imperial Government.

Baron Kallai replied that the Austro-Hungarian Agent at Sophia had not reported the passing of the law, but that instructions should be sent to him similar to those you had given to Mr. Lascelles.

He had no official knowledge of the terms of the law, but he could have no hesitation in declaring that if it at all resembled the description given of it by the Roumanians, it must be regarded as wholly inadmissible.

The Bulgarian Government could not be allowed to speak of districts belonging to Roumania and Servia as territories of Bulgaria, which had only been called into existence by the Treaty of Berlin; and neither Roumania nor Servia could be expected to consent to their subjects being permitted to divest themselves of their nationality by the simple fact of passing the frontier.

There are some 2,000,000 Roumanians in Transylvania and the Bukovine, but the Imperial Government would not admit the right of the Roumanian Government to declare that such of them as passed into the Principality became Roumanian subjects.

M. Kallai observed that it seemed to him more than questionable whether any country would be justified in treating any particular class of foreign subjects differently from others.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 488.

Sir H. Elliot to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 260. Confidential.)
Vienna, May 26, 1880.

My Lord,

SIR A. H. LAYARD, in his despatch No. 429, marked Very Confidential, of the 17th April, stated that Count Dubsky, the Austrian Minister at Constantinople, considered that, by encouraging the Bulgarians to join the Church of Rome, the designs of the Exarch, whom he believed to have an understanding with Russia, might be frustated.

Sir A. H. Layard added that he was unable to say whether his colleague was expressing only his own personal views or those of his Government, and I have, therefore, in the course of conversation with Baron Kallay, and without mentioning Sir A. H. Layard, endeavoured to ascertain how this language was to be regarded.

His Excellency assured me that he had not been aware of Count Dubsky holding such an opinion, but that, if he did, it must be in consequence of his ignorance of the character of the Bulgarian people, and he would modify it when he became better acquainted with them.

Their past history was identified with their church, and their hopes had always been in the sympathy of those who held the same faith.

The disposition among them some fifteen years ago to join the Roman Church was not a religious movement, but a mere matter of political calculation, when they hoped to secure the support of France, which was at that time exercising a dominating influence in the East.

M. Zancoff himself afforded an example of the only kind of conversion that could be expected.

He had become a Roman Catholic for a political object, and when he failed in that, he speedily reverted to his original faith.

Conversions or professed conversions might, Baron Kallay said, possibly be obtained if the immediate prospect were held out of a great political advantage to be gained, but they would be followed, as in M. Zancoff's case, by a new recantation when the object had either been attained or found unattainable; for the Bulgarian people would, he was convinced, remain in their hearts faithful to their church and to their traditions, even if their consciences allowed them to equivocate for a time.

The very decided opinion expressed by Baron Kallay, and the weight which his great knowledge of the character and feelings of the Bulgarians must give him, make me consider it in the highest degree improbable that, if Count Dubsky were to bring his project before his Government, he would succeed in inducing them to associate themselves with his dream.

I have, &c.
(Signed HENRY ELLIOT.

No. 489.

Consul Reade to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(Confidential.)
My Lord,
Corfu, May 27, 1880.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship, herewith inclosed, extracts of a despatch I have just received from the British Vice-Consul at Santa Maura relative to the state of things in Lower Epirus.

I have been informed by a reliable person who passed through this a few days ago that the summons to Wessel Bey to proceed to Constantinople did not come from the Porte, but from a higher quarter of the capital, which evidently means the Palace.

What Mr. Onoffrio says of Wessel Bey is perfectly true; he is the most influential of the Mussulman Epirots, and is all-powerful in the province; the attention of the Greeks, therefore, who are aware of this, is chiefly concentrated on him. He is, moreover, a man who could put an effectual stop to brigandage and all other disorders in the province; but it would appear that to do so would not suit the purpose of the Mussulman Epirots at present.

I am almost daily hearing of disorders of every description in the province; only yesterday a person came from Janina to notify to a confectioner here that if he did not send immediately 100 Turkish liras, equal to 90*l.*, for the release of his father, who is in the hands of a band of Greek brigands, the captive would be decapitated.

Although the son is just about able to pay this sum, his condition may be imagined.

Everything in this quarter indicates that the cession to Greece of any part of Epirus will be desperately resisted by the Mussulman Albanians of Epirus, who evidently seem resolved to set even the Sultan at defiance in this matter.

M. Carapanos, the largest Christian landholder of Epirus, and a native of Arta, is here with the whole of his family and valuables, not daring to show himself there. I have had several conversations with him, and what he states fully confirms the reports I have already had the honour to forward to the Foreign Office on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. READE.

Inclosure in No. 489.

Vice-Consul Onofrio to Consul Reade.

Santa Maura, May 25, 1880.

(Extract.)

REPORTS from the frontier have reached this place that panic prevails among the Christian inhabitants of the border districts in consequence of the threatening attitude of the Mahommedan Albanians, and a political significance is attached here to the departure of Wessel Bey for Constantinople, he being considered as the soul of the Albanian agitation in the neighbourhood. It is, moreover, authoritatively stated that previous to his departure for the capital he convened at his house all the Albanian notables of Prevesa.

While till quite recently people here had made light of the threats of the Albanians, it is now admitted on all hands that the political aspect of affairs along the frontier is very alarming, and that Greece may find it a somewhat arduous task to repress single-handed the contemplated resistance of the Albanians against annexation to Greece of any territory in Epirus.

No. 490.

Musurus Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, May 31.)

Constantinople, le 28 *Mai*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

DANS l'audience que Sa Majesté Impériale m'a accordée dès mon arrivée à Constantinople, je lui ai fait un exposé détaillé et raisonné de la situation politique en Angleterre; j'ai dissipé tous les doutes que la malveillance ou l'ignorance avait pu inspirer sur la politique du nouveau Cabinet Britannique en Orient, et j'ai convaincu Sa Majesté des dispositions sympathiques et des vues sincèrement amicales du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté la Reine envers l'Empire Ottoman. Sa Majesté Impériale, pleinement satisfaite de mon exposé, m'a chargé de faire parvenir par télégraphe à Mr. Gladstone et à Lord Granville l'expression de ses sentiments de haute satisfaction pour la politique conservatrice et sincèrement amicale que ces deux hommes d'Etat et le Gouvernement dont ils font partie sont résolus à suivre en Orient dans l'intérêt de la paix et de la régénération de l'Empire Ottoman. Notre auguste Maître m'a déclaré qu'il ne tardait à personne autant qu'à lui-même de voir s'accomplir l'exécution des dispositions du Traité de Berlin qui restent encore en suspens. Il tient à ce que la Sublime Porte prête à un résultat aussi désirable un concours d'autant plus empressé qu'il a la certitude que les Puissances dans leur équité ne voudront pas permettre que le sens des Articles qui se rapportent aux questions pendantes soit aggravé au préjudice d'aucune des parties intéressées.

Veuillez vous acquitter auprès de Mr. Gladstone et de Lord Granville du message dont m'a chargé auprès d'eux Sa Majesté Impériale et me télégraphier leur réponse.

No. 491.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, May 31.)

Constantinople, le 29 *Mai*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

LE Gouverneur-Général du Vilayet de Salonique télégraphie à la Sublime Porte qu'une bande de vingt-trois brigands Bulgares, qui avait commis grand nombre de crimes, a été surprise par un détachement Ottoman, et complétement anéantie.

Nos troupes ont trouvé sur les cadavres de ces malfaiteurs des médailles portant des inscriptions révolutionnaires, et sept requêtes rédigées en Français, adressées aux Représentants des Puissances à Constantinople. Les brigands étaient chargés par les Comités de faire signer de vive force ces requêtes à nos populations, mais préoccupés des soins de leur principal métier, le brigandage, ils avaient négligé cette partie de leur mission, de sorte que ces pétitions ne portent aucune signature. Elles demandent l'incorporation de la Macédoine à la Bulgarie. Cette découverte jette une nouvelle et éclatante lumière sur la formation des bandes destinées à infester nos provinces, et sur l'origine et la valeur des pétitions semblables parvenues précédemment aux Puissances.

Je me borne à porter, sans d'autres commentaires, ces faits à votre connaissance, et vous prie d'en faire tel usage que vous jugerez utile.

No. 492.

Sawas Pasha to Musurus Bey.—(Communicated to Earl Granville by Musurus Bey, May 31.)

Constantinople, le 31 *Mai*, 1880.

(Télégraphique.)

SA Majesté Impériale le Sultan vient de confirmer leurs Excellences Assim Pacha et Abro Effendi comme Commissaires Ottomans à la Commission Européenne de la Roumélie Orientale. Cette Commission se réunira incessamment.

Veuillez en informer le Gouvernement près duquel vous êtes accrédité.

No. 493.

M. Bratiano to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

Londres, le 29 *Mai*, 1880.

My Lord,

VOTRE Seigneurie se le rappelle, l'Article XLVI du Traité de Berlin porte que la ligne-frontière de démarcation entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie partira de l'est de Silistrie et aboutira au sud de Mangalia à la Mer Noire, et que cette ligne sera fixée sur les lieux par la Commission Européenne instituée pour la délimitation de la Bulgarie.

Conformément à cette stipulation la Commission Européenne a effectué le travail que lui prescrit le Traité, et a tracé il y aura bientôt deux ans, la ligne de démarcation entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie. Le Commissaire Russe, seul, qui voulait que la colline nommée Arab-Tabia restât à la Bulgarie, se refusa de souscrire le travail de la Commission.

La Russie a prétendu qu'il devait y avoir unanimité au sein de la Commission pour que son travail fut exécutoire, puis elle a demandé aux Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin qu'une nouvelle Commission d'Ingénieurs révisât sur les lieux le travail de la première Commission. Les autres Puissances ont adhéré à cette demande de la Russie sous la condition que la décision de la majorité de cette nouvelle Commission Technique serait définitive et aurait force de loi.

La nouvelle Commission a procédé à son travail sur les lieux, il y a huit mois (Octobre dernier), et elle a confirmé à l'unanimité, le Commissaire Russe excepté, le tracé fixé par la précédente Commission. Néanmoins, la Roumanie et la Bulgarie sont encore à attendre la consécration par les Signataires du Traité de Berlin de la ligne de démarcation qui doit fixer d'une manière définitive la frontière entre les deux pays.

Les Puissances qui sont si anxieuses d'obtenir la prompte exécution de toutes les clauses du Traité de Berlin, celles même relatives à la Grèce et au Monténégro, qui présentent de grandes difficultés, comment différeraient-elles plus longtemps de donner leur sanction au travail de la Commission de Délimitation de la Dobroudja qui attend cette sanction depuis huit mois, et de mettre ainsi fin aux conflits journaliers de Douane et de police que fait naître entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie le manque d'une ligne de démarcation bien définie et reconnue par l'Aréopage Européen.

On prétend que la Russie voudrait obtenir à la Bulgarie des compensations en territoire pour Arab-Tabia qui reste à la Roumanie; mais ici il n'y a pas lieu à compensation, Arab-Tabia se trouvant du côté de la Roumanie en deçà de la ligne de démarcation. Les compensations ont eu lieu au moment où la Commission a fixé la ligne-frontière, car ne pouvant pas tirer une ligne droite de Silistrie à Mangalia, la Commission a dû faire suivre à son tracé les sinuosités de terrain, et à accorder des compensations tantôt à la Bulgarie, tantôt à la Roumanie, à mesure que son tracé s'éloignait à droite ou à gauche de la ligne prescrite par le Traité.

La plus parfaite amitié a de tout temps existé entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie, lesquelles n'ont formé même qu'un seul état, à une certaine époque. Si les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin avaient sanctionné sans retard la ligne-frontière entre les deux Principautés prescrite par le Traité, cette amitié traditionnelle entre les Bulgares et les Roumains n'aurait fait qu'augmenter, en considération du sang versé par ces derniers dans la dernière guerre pour l'émancipation de la Bulgarie; mais la question de la frontière Bulgare-Roumaine ayant été agitée durant deux années, les Roumains demandant pour eux Arab-Tabia, et la Russie réclamant Arab-Tabia pour la Bulgarie, a altéré les bons rapports entre les deux pays, et a fait naître entre eux une espèce d'antagonisme, ainsi que le démontre le nouveau projet de loi de naturalisation du Gouvernement de Sophia, dans lequel la Dobroudja est considérée comme une partie de la Bulgarie annexée à la Roumanie, antagonisme qui pourrait dégénérer à la longue en conflits à main armée.

La Roumanie a rempli toutes les obligations, si dures qu'elles fussent, que lui a imposées le Traité de Berlin. Quelques semaines après la ratification du Traité, elle a

arraché à son sein la Bessarabie, et l'a laissé prendre à la Russie; il serait donc juste, il semble, que les Grandes Puissances exécutassent aussi de leur côté les clauses du Traité concernant la Roumanie.

Qu'il me soit permis d'exprimer ici mon ferme espoir, my Lord, que le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, qui vient de prendre l'heureuse initiative d'accélérer l'exécution de toutes les clauses du Traité de Berlin, animé qu'il est du désir de rétablir et de consolider la paix dans l'Orient Européen, s'empressera de donner sa sanction et de faire en sorte que les autres Puissances la donnent aussi, à la ligne-frontière entre la Roumanie et la Bulgarie tracée par la Commission de Délimitation. J'ose espérer en même temps que, grâce à ses bons offices, le Gouvernement de Sophia renoncera de donner suite à son projet de loi concernant la naturalisation, qui servirait qu'à le mettre en hostilité avec les Gouvernements de tous les pays voisins.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) D. BRATIANO.

No. 494.

Memorandum communicated confidentially by M. Bratiano, May 31, 1880.

LE Cabinet de Sophia avait élaboré et publié, et se proposait de faire voter d'urgence par l'Assemblée Nationale, un projet de loi sur la naturalisation des étrangers en Bulgarie. Certaines parties de ce projet visaient plus particulièrement les habitants de la Dobroudja, de la Serbie, de la Roumélie Orientale et de l'Empire Ottoman proprement dit, qui sont d'origine Bulgare.

Voici le résumé des dispositions sur l'admission des étrangers aux droits de citoyen en Bulgarie:

1. Un stage de cinq années, qui leur conférerait seulement le caractère de sujets;

2. Un second stage de cinq années, au bout desquelles ils seraient admis à l'exercice des droits politiques.

Mais l'Article 3 constitue une exception à ces règles générales, et porte:

"Seront considérés comme citoyens Bulgares, sans autres conditions que les certificats d'une commune Bulgare constatant qu'ils sont admis dans cette commune et présenté dans le délai de trois mois à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi, tous les anciens sujets Ottomans de nationalité Bulgare, nés en Roumélie, ou dans les provinces Turques, ou dans les parties de la Bulgarie annexées à la Roumanie et à la Serbie, qui sont domiciliés sur le territoire Bulgare avant la promulgation de la présente loi.

"De même seront citoyens Bulgares, sans autres conditions que les précédentes, les habitants de nationalité Bulgare qui, se trouvant dans les provinces annexées à la Roumanie et à la Serbie et n'étant pas résolus à y rester, émigreront en Bulgarie dans le délai de deux ans à partir de la promulgation de la présente loi."

Cet Article, dans son ensemble, ne contient pas moins de trois vices capitaux: il blesse la vérité historique; il viole les prescriptions les plus usuelles du droit international; il est contraire au Traité de Berlin, car il tend, par un subterfuge d'ailleurs facile à pénétrer, à rétablir et à prolonger parmi les divers éléments de la péninsule Balkanique la confusion que ce Traité s'est attaché à dissiper.

Qualifier la Dobroudja de province Bulgare annexée à la Roumanie, c'est méconnaître la vérité historique. La Dobroudja a été tour à tour Tartare, Roumaine, Ottomane, jamais Bulgare. C'est sur des tribus Tartares, et dans des limites plus vastes que les limites actuelles, qu'elle fut conquise au treizième siècle par des Princes Roumains. C'est à des Princes Roumains que les Sultans l'enlevèrent au commencement du quinzième siècle. C'est enfin de l'Empire Ottoman que l'Europe, après la guerre de 1877-78, en a statué le désistement en faveur de la Roumanie. Le Gouvernement Princier a déjà dû, par Circulaire du [illegible], 1879, à ses Représentants, s'élever contre des allégations erronées, et rappeler l'enchaînement de circonstances, les titres historiques, et les succès militaires qui lui ont rendu la Dobroudja. Il renouvelle aujourd'hui ses protestations, afin de couper court à la thèse qui se plaît à présenter la Dobroudja comme un morceau arraché à la Bulgarie. La seule analogie qui existât naguère, et qui ait jamais existé entre la Bulgarie et la Dobroudja, était leur condition commune de provinces Ottomanes. Elles sont sorties ensemble, mais vers des destinées divergentes, de cette condition: l'une est retournée à un Etat auquel elle avait jadis appartenu, et dont elle est heureuse de partager de nouveau l'existence indépendante et prospère; l'autre, par le concours de sacrifices auxquels la Roumanie a largement contribué, a été érigée en Principauté autonome, parce qu'elle a été jugée capable d'acquérir les droits, mais aussi de remplir les obligations et de peser les responsabilités de l'autonomie.

Parmi ces obligations d'une Principauté qui est essentiellement une création du droit international, figure en première ligne le respect des règles que le droit international prescrit. Or, l'Article 3 précité, constitue une violation flagrante à ces prescriptions.

Que contient en effet ce texte, dû non pas à l'initiative particulière de quelque Député exalté, mais à l'initiative même du Cabinet de Sophia? Il proclame qu'il suffit d'un simple transfert de résidence et d'un certificat émané d'une autorité de village de la Bulgarie, pour transformer un sujet Roumain de la Dobroudja en un citoyen Bulgare. Ce n'est pas tout; le projet ne se borne pas à créer un régime d'exception pour les individus qui se sont déjà fixés en Bulgarie. Il anticipe sur l'avenir; il prévoit, il sollicite l'émigration. Il dispose que tout sujet Roumain de la Dobroudja, d'origine Bulgare, qui dans le délai de deux années à dater de la promulgation de la loi, aura émigré en Bulgarie et obtenu un certificat communal Bulgare, deviendra *ipso facto*, sans plus ample formalité, citoyen Bulgare. A quel époque, en quel pays la naturalisation de sujets étrangers a-t-elle pu résulter du seul fait d'une provocation écoulée à un changement de résidence? Est-il en règle vis-à-vis du passé? n'aura-t-il pas besoin, pour s'en libérer complétement, que d'avoir mis quelques lieux de distance entre son ancienne et sa nouvelle résidence? Car l'émigré, devenu citoyen Bulgare presqu'aussitôt qu'il a franchi la frontière, échappe dès lors à toute poursuite.

Le Cabinet de Sophia a exprimé au Gouvernement Princier de Roumanie le désir de négocier un arrangement pour l'extradition des déserteurs. L'accueil rencontré par cette proposition présageait une entente, et constituait en quelque sorte la base d'un accord préliminaire.

En supposant l'Acte relatif aux déserteurs conclu, et la loi sur la naturalisation votée, comment les concilier? Le Gouvernement Bulgare, fidèle à ses engagements, livrerait-il comme déserteurs des individus à qui leur désertion même aurait conféré la cité Bulgare?

Que dire aussi de la différence établie par les projet de loi entre les sujets étrangers quelconques et les sujets étrangers de territoires spécifiés? Le simple voisinage devient-il en droit international une capacité de naturalisation?

Comment expliquer surtout la distinction que le projet de loi prétend marquer entre les sujets Roumains de la rive gauche du Danube et ceux de la rive droite? Existera-t-il deux catégories de sujets Roumains, seulement au point de vue et dans l'intérêt de la naturalisation Bulgare?

C'est ici que la question redouble de gravité, et c'est principalement sous ce rapport que le projet de loi peut à juste titre être accusé de contrevenir au Traité de Berlin; car les observations qui concernent les sujets Roumains s'appliquent également aux sujets Ottomans et Serbes, et aux Roumélioles, c'est-à-dire à la péninsule des Balkans presque tout entière.

Pour ne parler que des sujets Roumains, l'Article 3 divise en deux classes ceux qui sont d'origine Bulgare; s'ils habitent la rive gauche du Danube, ce sont des étrangers quelconques, au même titre, par exemple, que des Espagnols ou des Anglais. Ils ne seront admis à la cité Bulgare qu'après un double stage progressif, dont chaque période sera de cinq ans. S'ils habitent la rive droite, s'ils sont de la Dobroudja, leur situation est tout autre. Ils sont presque déjà des citoyens Bulgares, sauf de légères conditions, faciles et rapides à réunir. Ceux-là seuls perdraient leur capacité à devenir citoyens qui, dans un délai de deux ans à dater de la promulgation de la loi, n'auraient pas quitté la Dobroudja, partie de la Bulgarie annexée à la Roumanie, et ne se seraient pas fixés dans la Principauté Bulgare proprement dite.

Ainsi la Bulgarie, moins de deux ans après la signature du Traité de Berlin, qui est comme son acte de naissance, élève déjà des prétentions sur la Dobroudja, sur la Roumélie, sur des portions de l'Empire Ottoman et de la Serbie, et les revendique presque ouvertement. Elle élabore une loi de naturalisation, dont le seule énoncé donne aussitôt l'éveil aux Etats avoisinants, et dont la pratique entraînerait un trouble profond et une confusion inextricable dans ses relations de toute sorte.

Dès l'apparition de ce projet de loi, l'Agent Diplomatique de Serbie à Sophia a protesté. Le Gérant de l'Agence Princière de Roumanie a formulé des réserves catégoriques au nom de son Gouvernement et a avisé ce dernier que le projet de loi, publié seulement le $\frac{7}{19}$ Mai, devait d'abord être discuté par l'Assemblée en toute hâte le surlendemain, et qu'on avait à peine obtenu un sursis de trois jours.

Le Gouvernement Roumain a immédiatement autorisé à renouveler par écrit ses réserves les plus formelles, à demander la remise de la discussion, et à faire connaître l'incident aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances à Sophia. La discussion du projet

de loi avait été fixée au $\frac{17}{29}$ Mai. Enfin Son Altesse Prince de Bulgarie promit lui même un ajournement de huit jours.

L'intérêt traditionnel de la Roumanie pour les Bulgares, alors qu'ils venaient chercher et trouvaient, avec l'hospitalité la plus large, fortune et lumières sur le sol Roumain, la coopération si généreuse de l'armée Roumaine avec l'armée Impériale Russe à l'œuvre de leur émancipation, enfin la cordialité des sentiments que le Cabinet Roumain, depuis le Congrès de Berlin, n'a cessé de témoigner à la jeune Principauté née par l'autonomie à la vie politique, permettent d'apprécier l'étendue et la sincérité du désir où est la Roumanie d'entretenir avec la Bulgarie les rapports de la meilleure harmonie.

Toutefois, pour porter ses fruits, ce désir doit être payé de retour.

Or, une succession rapprochée d'indices significatifs légitime des doutes sur la réciprocité dont le Gouvernement Princier de Bulgarie est disposé à user dans ses sentiments envers la Roumanie.

Récemment encore, le Cabinet de Sophia désignait la Dobroudja comme un foyer où naîtrait et s'alimenterait, sous le couvert de l'incurie ou de la complicité des autorités Roumaines, le brigandage qui sévit en Bulgarie. M. le Préfet de Coustouza a prouvé, par son Rapport adressé au Département de l'Intérieur, l'inexactitude de ces imputations, et a retourné comme il convenait l'attribution des torts. Depuis, des incendies dans les forêts sur la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine et des incursions de troupes et milices Bulgares dans la Dobroudja ont fourni de tristes lumières sur la réalité. M. le Ministre de la Guerre de Bulgarie, au moment d'entreprendre une inspection de la frontière Bulgaro-Roumaine, a avoué, devant témoins, qu'il n'existait aucune preuve de la formation des bandes de brigands dans la Dobroudja.

Aujourd'hui surgit la question du projet de loi sur la naturalisation des sujets Roumains d'origine Bulgare habitant la Dobroudja. Le texte de ce projet articule que la Dobroudja est une dépouille Bulgare annexée à la Roumanie, et organise par un appel insolite à l'émigration, et par une distinction entre les sujets d'un même pays, un système de naturalisation qui est inadmissible, parce qu'il est attentoire aux principes du droit public et du droit international. La Dobroudja serait une province que la Bulgarie viendrait de conquérir au prix de son sang que le projet ne disposerait pas avec plus d'aisance d'une fraction de ces habitants.

Si la loi relative à la naturalisation en Bulgarie venait à être votée dans la teneur actuelle du projet, la Roumanie, après avoir dûment protesté à Sophia même et auprès de toutes les Puissances Signataires du Traité de Berlin, ne serait-elle pas en droit d'user de représailles et d'édicter des mesures analogues envers les habitants de la Bulgarie dont un grand nombre sont d'origine Roumaine? Ces mesures ne lui seraient-elles pas imposées par l'instinct de conservation et de légitime défense, et par la nécessité de rétablir l'équilibre rompu?

Dès lors, cette lutte d'attraction réciproque et mutuellement hostile des sujets de l'une des deux Principautés dans l'autre n'amènerait-elle pas fatalement un désarroi irrémédiable et le plus fâcheux préjudice aux intérêts publics des deux parties, et surtout aux intérêts commerciaux des Bulgares? La tranquillité, la stabilité que le Congrès de Berlin s'est donné pour mission d'organiser dans l'Europe Orientale ne seraient-elles pas dangereusement compromises? N'y aurait-il pas là le germe de complications éventuelles?

Il est de l'intérêt des deux Principautés, appelées par leur voisinage à vivre dans les meilleures relations, il est de l'intérêt de l'Europe, désireuse de sauvegarder, avec la paix, son œuvre en Orient, qu'aucune cause de tension ne se produise dans les rapports de la Roumanie et de la Bulgarie.

C'est en vertu de ces considérations et de ces intérêts multiples que le Cabinet Roumain demande au Gouvernement de Sophia de renoncer, dans son projet de loi sur la naturalisation, aux clauses qui lèsent la Roumanie, et qu'il croit de son devoir de porter confidentiellement cet incident à la connaissance des Gouvernements des Grandes Puissances, afin qu'il soit possible, pendant qu'il en est temps encore, de prévenir des difficultés dont on ne saurait prévoir ni l'étendue ni l'importance

No. 495.

Memorandum communicated to Earl Granville by M. Léon Say, May 31.

FRONTIÈRES GRECQUES.

ON ne peut point arrêter ses idées sur les détails du tracé, qui ne pourra être fixé qu'après discussion en Conférence et en s'éclairant des lumières des hommes spéciaux.

La base générale doit rester celle du Protocole No. 13.

Le cours du Kalamas pourrait servir de limite en Epire, en laissant Janina et Metzovo aux Grecs.

Mais en Thessalie il est difficile de se limiter au cours même du Salamyrias (Penée), qui n'est pas une frontière pratique, et il y aurait lieu de gagner les versants au nord.

Le 31 Mai, 1880.

No. 496.

Earl Granville to Sir H. Elliot.

(No. 109.)
(Telegraphic.) *Foreign Office, May 31, 1880.*

CAN you telegraph to Mr. Green answer to question in following telegram from him?

[See No. 466.]

No. 497.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 31, 1880.*

WITH reference to your telegram No. 5, nominations have now been made by Sultan.

No. 498.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31, 1·30 P.M.)

(No. 3.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 31, 1880, 11·17 A.M.*

I HAVE just seen report in English newspapers of alleged interview and conversation between me and correspondent of "Tagblatt" at Vienna. The story was an entire fabrication. No such interview or conversation occurred.

No. 499.

Mr. Goschen to Earl Granville.—(Received May 31, 4·15 P.M.)

(No. 4.)
(Telegraphic.) *Therapia, May 31, 1880, 2 P.M.*

SOME unavoidable delay is taking place in my proceeding to work officially, owing to usual formalities as to presentation of credentials. Expect audience to-morrow.

With reference to your telegram No. 4, is the intimation to the Porte as to Conference to be given in the proposed identic note referring to the three great questions or separately? I am most anxious to give intimation at once. Decision of Powers on the Greek question will prevent identic note being simply a paraphrase of Circular. Russian Ambassador has hinted to me that in the paraphrase it will be permissible to accentuate somewhat more here and there. I replied we could certainly not go beyond actual sense of Circular.

No. 500.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 2.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880, 3·10 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your telegram No. 5.

No. 501.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 6.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880, 3·15 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HAS the Report of the Commission on outrages in Kirdjali district been sent in?

No. 502.

Mr. Corbett to Earl Granville.—(*Received May* 31, 4·30 P.M.)

(Secret.) *Athens, May* 31, 1880, 12·30 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

MINISTER for Foreign Affairs has read to me a telegram the King has sent him from Paris, in which His Majesty says that M. Grévy told him the French Government would insist on cession of Janina to Greece in accordance with recommendation of the Treaty of Berlin; he adds that he had found M. Gambetta more phil-Hellene than ever, and they both assured the King that they were certain of a majority favourable to the cession of Janina in approaching Conference of Berlin.

No. 503.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

Foreign Office, May 31, 1880, 4·45 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

AUSTRIAN Government have not told Prince of Montenegro about the proposals for amended cession of territory.

I understand they are not indisposed towards it.

No. 504.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

Foreign Office, May 31, 1880, 6 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

HER Majesty's Government think it would be desirable that you should go to Janina, and also visit Mezzovo, with a view to furnishing a geographical and ethnological Report on the Greek claim to rectification of frontier in that direction.

No. 505.

Earl Granville to Sir A. H. Layard.

(No. 170.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880, 7 P.M.
(Telegraphic.)

DO you propose to send Mr. Stephen first to visit the disturbed districts under instructions in No. 5 to Mr. Goschen?

At all events some one should go.

No. 506.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

I TRANSMIT herewith to your Excellency a copy of a telegram from Sawas Pasha, which was given to me on the 22nd instant by the Turkish Chargé d'Affaires,* on the subject of the proposal recently made by Her Majesty's Government for joint action on the part of the Powers Signatories of the Treaty of Berlin, to put an end to the delay which has occurred in the execution of certain Articles of the Treaty.

I stated to Musurus Bey that I did not think it desirable to discuss separately the representations which were about to be addressed by all the Powers to the Porte. I wished, however, to impress very strongly on the Government of the Sultan that it was in their interest to show by their acts, and not by mere words, the intention of the Sultan to fulfil, without further delay, the conditions of the Treaty of Berlin.

Musurus Bey answered that the despatch which he had presented showed that the Porte was executing the provisions of the Treaty. I told him that this was a contention which I could not admit.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 507.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 26.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

SIR HENRY LAYARD has transmitted to me, in his despatch No. 525 of the 18th instant, a copy of a note which he addressed to the Porte, making strong representations respecting the state of anarchy prevailing in the district of Prisrend, of which he had received details in Mr. St. John's despatches to myself, Nos. 28 and 30 of the 25th and 27th ultimo.

Her Majesty's Government entirely approve Sir Henry Layard's proceedings in the matter.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 508.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 27.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government approve the language which you employed on the occasion of the audience granted to you on the 22nd instant by His Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Austria, a report of which is contained in your Excellency's despatch No. 4, Secret, of the 23rd instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 509.

Earl Granville to Mr. Goschen.

(No. 28.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatch marked Very Confidential, of the 22nd instant, reporting the substance of a conversation which you held with Baron Haymerle on the 21st instant.

I have read the account of your interview with great interest, and I have pleasure informing you that your language on that occasion is entirely approved by Her Majesty' Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 390.

No. 510.

Earl Granville to Mr. White.

(No. 58.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received, and read with much interest, your despatch No. 65 of the 7th instant, giving a recapitulation of the principal events which have occurred in Roumania in the course of the last two years, and I have much pleasure in conveying to you the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for this useful Report.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 511.

Earl Granville to Mr. Blunt.

(No. 23.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 49 of the 4th instant, inclosing a copy of a Report by Mr. Alvarez upon the Special Commission which was instituted in the Vilayet of Kossova, to examine into and report upon the new Organic Statute for the Turkish provinces.

I have to request you to convey to Mr. Alvarez my approval of his Report, and of the manner in which he carried out his instructions.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 512.

Earl Granville to Mr. Blunt.

(No. 24.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE to request you to convey to Mr. Alvarez my approval of the Report which he has drawn up on the state of affairs in the Vilayet of Kossova, copy of which was inclosed in your despatch No. 52 of the 10th instant.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 513.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 38.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I AM assured, with reference to your inquiry as to whether the Austro-Hungarian Government has informed Prince Nikita of the suggestions that are being discussed for an amended cession of territory, that no communication of the kind has been made to His Highness, but I understand that they are not indisposed towards such an arrangement as is proposed.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 514.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 39.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 92 of the 5th instant, transmitting the translation of a document which was delivered to you by two Chiefs of the Hotti and Gruda tribes, and which represents the determination of the Roman Catholics to resist Montenegrin encroachments.

I have to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve the language employed by you on this occasion.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 515.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 40.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

I HAVE to inform you that Her Majesty's Government approve your language, as reported in your despatch No. 103 of the 10th instant, on the occasion of a visit which was paid you by two Roman Catholic gentleman, members of the League formed to resist all cessions of Albanian territory to Montenegro.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 516.

Earl Granville to Mr. Kirby Green.

(No. 42.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government approve your proceedings as reported in your despatch No, 95 of the 6th instant, with the object of effecting a truce between the Albanians and Montenegrins, by which the two populations might be enabled to attend to the agricultural pursuits, so necessary to prevent another year of scarcity and famine in the country.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 517.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 13.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

HER Majesty's Government being anxious to obtain geographical and ethnological information with regard to the claim of Greece for a rectification of frontier in the direction of Janina and Mezzovo, I have to instruct you to proceed to that district, and to furnish me with a Report thereon.

You will travel as a private person.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 518.

Earl Granville to Captain Sale.

(No. 15.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

I HAVE received your despatch No. 2 of the 8th instant, and I have to convey to you the thanks of Her Majesty's Government for your interesting Report on the state of affairs on the Albano-Montenegrin frontier.

I shall be glad to receive any further information you may be able to obtain respecting the plans and resources of the Albanian League.

I am, &c.
(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 519.

Earl Granville to Lord E. Fitzmaurice.

(No. 10.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

My Lord,

YOUR telegram No. 5 of the 29th instant has been received, and Her Majesty's Government approve your having joined your Austrian, French, German, Italian, and Russian colleagues in a collective note to the Porte announcing your arrival, and requesting it to appoint a Turkish Commissioner.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

No. 520.

Earl Granville to Lord Lyons.

(No. 599.) *Foreign Office, May* 31, 1880.

My Lord,

THE French Ambassador gave me, to-day, the memorandum of which I inclose a copy,* stating the views of his Government as to the general character of the new frontier line which should be assigned to Greece.

I understood from his Excellency that the views of the French Government had been also communicated to that of Germany, and that the latter had expressed concurrence in them, but that M. de Freycinet was as yet unaware how they would be regarded by the other Powers.

I told M. Léon Say that, speaking generally, Her Majesty's Government would be glad that Greece should receive as large an addition of territory as might be agreed upon by the Powers, and as was consistent with her being able easily to take and retain possession of it, provided also that it did not include districts of which the population was purely, or to a large extent, Mussulman.

I understood from his Excellency that these were also M. de Freycinet's views, except that he did not attach so much importance to the second condition I had mentioned, that of easy and peaceable acquisition of the territory to be ceded.

I am, &c.

(Signed) GRANVILLE.

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* No. 495.